The Middlebury Campus

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LOCAL

High housing prices in Addison County and Monterey prove challenging for staff

By JULIA PEPPER
Local Editor

Over time, and at an accelerated rate since the beginning of the pandemic, housing prices have generally climbed across the country, and Addison County, Vermont, and Monterey, California — the location of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS), and one of the most expensive places to live in the U.S. — are no exceptions. These increases in housing prices intimately affect staff members at both Middlebury campuses, impacting their daily lives, families and quality of life.

Here in Addison County, many may have heard the refrain that retreat from cities in the Northeast during the early stages of the pandemic led to dramatic increases in housing demands and prices. Matthew Curran, Middlebury College's director of business services, elaborated on this phenomenon. People moving to Addison County in March 2020 were often coming from more expensive cities and could afford to pay well over the asking price or to pay in cash. Now, almost two years later, many of these people have chosen to remain in Addison County.

"I think a lot of people expected it to kind of flip, for people to move back. People are staying here because of the quality of life, [and] being able to work remotely," Curran said.

While this population growth is good for the state in some ways, it has also catalyzed the preexisting trend of increasing housing market rates in Vermont. Rising prices have made the search for housing tougher for many locals, including college staff. According to Tim Parsons, a landscape horticulturist at the college, some staff have resorted to living in upstate New York and commuting to work to secure affordable housing.

For Katie Tatro, a staff member working as a dishwasher in Atwater and living in Cornwall, high housing prices have created a barrier to buying a home where she would live with her 11-year-old son. Tatro has worked at Middlebury since she graduated high school, around 25 years ago. In her time working here, Tatro has worked in all dining halls and departments and done laundry. She switched to working as a dishwasher because it often enables her to go home early and spend time with her son when he is home from school. However, Tatro mentioned working double shifts and emphasized she stays flexible in her hours and rarely calls in sick.

Tatro, a single mother, currently rents a three bedroom, one bathroom home with her mother, where the two live with Tatro's son. Her landlords also work at the college, and her rent has not increased over time. Still, Tatro aims to own a home, and she emphasized that despite paying her bills on time and maintaining good credit, she has been unable to purchase one.

Tatro has also looked at other rentals, but the prices are a deterrent. "It's really really expensive everywhere," she said.

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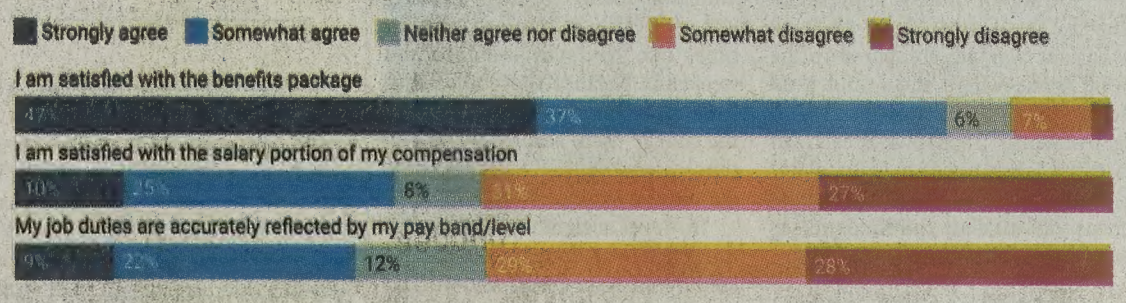
The Staff Issue

STAFF COUNCIL SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS STAFF CONCERNS IN VERMONT AND MONTEREY



By TONY SJODIN
Senior News Editor

The Middlebury Staff Council conducted a survey in September 2021 asking staff at the college and Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey about working conditions across the institution. Fifty-four percent of eligible employees responded to the survey.

Over the past year, the college faced staffing shortages paralleling national trends. Some staff have left the college for other jobs and better pay, while others have retired or pursued other opportunities outside the college.

Staff generally reported high levels of satisfaction with the college's Covid-19 policies and reported low levels of satisfaction with compensation and professional development.

Compensation was an issue for staff members. While many felt positively about their benefits package, staff in every department reported high levels of dissatisfaction with salaries. Custodial and facilities staff again reported particularly high levels of dissatisfaction.

Among all staff at the college, 46% reported needing a second source of income to make ends meet, with as high as 76 and 75 percent of staff in custodial and facilities services, respectively, reporting needing a second income.

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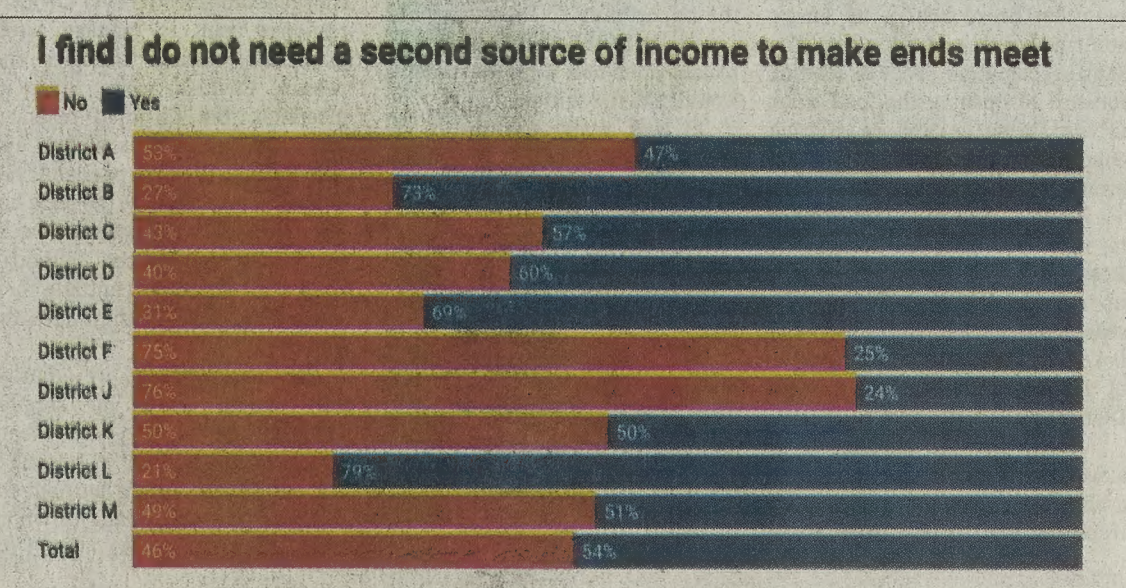

District A includes academic coordinators and center for the arts staff among others, District B includes advancement, communications and printing and mailing services staff and District C includes research, CCI, CCE, CTLR, Health Center, Public Safety and student activities staff in addition to others. District D is a broad-ranging district including admissions, athletics and Dean of Students office staff, while District E includes the bookstore, financial services, the mail center and the Snow Bowl staff. District F is Facilities Services and District J is custodial. District K is Dining Services, District L is Information Technology Services and library staff and District M is the Institute.

SPORTS

MIDDLEBURY VARSITY COACHES REFLECT ON PAST PROFESSIONAL PLAYING CAREERS

By BLAISE SIEFER
Senior Sports Editor

Did you know that eleven Middlebury varsity athletic coaches once played professional sports? Yes, eleven. From a former professional baseball player to a two-time Olympic skier, Middlebury's coaches bring a rich history of professional playing experience to their teams.

This past week, I connected with many of these coaches to hear about their past professional athletic experiences. Here is what they had to say...

Mike Leonard — Head Coach, Men's Baseball — Double A Baseball

After four years of playing baseball for the University of Connecticut, Mike Leonard signed with the Boston Red Sox organization as a free agent. The catcher spent four years in Boston's minor-league system, playing for teams such as the Gulf Coast League Red Sox, Lowell Spinners, and Greenville Drive. Leonard's biggest accomplishment was playing at the Double A level with the Portland Sea Dogs in Maine. In 2009, Leonard concluded his professional baseball as a player-coach with the Worcester Tornadoes, an independent team in the Can-Am league.

What Leonard had to say: "The entire experience of being able to realize a childhood dream of playing professional baseball was incredible. Playing in front of thousands of people and having people ask for your autograph was a surreal experience. There are two moments that come to mind as really memorable. The first was being able to play in a Major League spring training game. I got to hit in the 9th inning against the Twins which was pretty awesome. Closest I ever got to being a 'Big Leaguer.' The other moment was when I was playing for the Worcester Tornadoes. It was the last stop of my career and my role as player-coach where I served as our back-up catcher and helped coach the pitchers. We were playing in the Championship game in Quebec City and former MLB All-Star and Cy Young winner Eric Gagne was pitching. As a native of Montreal, he had a ton of fan support and as he was closing out the 9th inning of the final game against our team; close to 10,000 people were on their feet cheering and chanting his name. While we lost the game, the atmosphere was incredible and it was a ton of fun."

Nicole Wilkerson — Head Coach, Men's & Women's Cross Country — U.S. Track & Field Qualifier in 10k race

Wilkerson was an All-American track athlete at Rice University (Texas), specializing in long distance races. After graduating in 1993, Wilkerson trained at the professional level, qualifying for the 10k at the 1995 U.S. Track & Field National Qualifier. The following year, Wilkerson ran the 10k in the U.S. Olympic trials.

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Greg Conrad '17 is one of eleven Middlebury varsity coaches to have played professional sports.

LOCAL

Second jobs and stagnant wages: Middlebury staff struggling to make a living

By MAGGIE REYNOLDS
Local Editor

Forced to find second jobs in town to make ends meet, college staff members say that lack of opportunity for wage increase causes both motivation and morale to suffer.

According to data from the 2021 Middlebury Staff Council Survey, 58% of respondents strongly disagreed or somewhat disagreed with the statement "I am satisfied with the salary portion of my compensation."

Forty-six percent of respondents from that same survey strongly disagreed with the statement "I find I do not need a second source of income to make ends meet."

Nearly everyone in facilities has either a second job or a side-hustle, such as private home cleanings, said a custodian who asked to remain anonymous. In addition to the pressure of working two jobs, they said a lot of pressure is created within the department by facilities staff trying to compete with each other for any possible extra compensation.

"There is a lot of negative energy around it," they said. "I feel there's a lot of people trying to one up the other, get further ahead. A lot of that comes back to compensation."

In an interview with The Campus in November, Dustin Bradford said that the lack of growth opportunity and lack of possibility for wage increase thwart motivation and morale among employees. Bradford — formerly a General Maintenance Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning [HVAC] technician — left the college that same month for a similar position at a private company that provided more job growth opportunities.

Both Bradford and the custodial employee cited the college raising minimum wage to $15/per hour in 2018 as one of the events most damaging to morale. According to Bradford, the minimum wage increase resulted in pay compression, where employees who had been at the college for over eight years were making the same as those who were just hired.

"I am trying to move up through the chain and people are walking in the door at my level, so that all that progress that I feel like I've made is worthless," Bradford said.

Tim Parsons, the college's landscape horticulturist, echoed the sentiments of Bradford and the custodian in an op-ed he wrote last March.

"Long-time workers at Middlebury deserve to be paid more than new hires and should see a one-time increase in pay under our pay-by-tenure system," Parsons wrote.

Because of this pressure to pay lower-level staff members lower wages than their supervisors, the custodian who asked to remain anonymous said they have virtually no pay-raise to show for their six years of consistent work.

"We go to a bank to even get

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Former Bread Loaf staff reflect on time away from main campus
By IDEAL DOWLING

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Vermont farmer's dream of dogsled racing in Alaska captured in Middlebury grad's documentary
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OPINIONS

What would you do in our place?
By KAT CYR

Keep Professor Povitz
By CARA LEVINE, ELOISE BERDAHL-BALDWIN, KRISTEN MORGENSTERN, REMI WELBEL & YARDENA GERWIN

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ARTS & CULTURE

How Plato's Republic and bluegrass brought students, faculty and staff together
By JOSHUA GLUCKSMAN

After hours: A look at Middlebury's staff in their free time
By CASSANDRA DORMEUS

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Rising star: Ali Paquette, assistant director of athletic communications, receives prestigious award
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Former Bread Loaf staff reflect on time away from main campus

By IDEAL DOWLING
Editor at Large

Due to over-enrollment during fall 2021, Bread Loaf became an alternate housing option for Middlebury students as a solution for the lack of space on the main campus. As a result, new staff positions in dining, facilities and transportation were added to accomodate a new housing area 30 minutes away. For this issue, The Campus spoke with some of the staff members who made Bread Loaf possible this year.

Dining operations at Bread Loaf were led by Jennifer Stratman, who is head chef at The Grille and oversees the food truck — which was part of the meal plan last academic year — and concessions. When the administration asked her to take on the position, she was very willing to step into the role.

"It made sense because my position is primarily concessions and the food truck. All my employees are students, so no one would have more work to do on main campus without me there," Stratman said.

With the help of one other employee, new hire Debbie Waters, Stratman worked tirelessly throughout her time at Bread Loaf to make it as comfortable as possible for students. She listened to student requests for certain foodstuffs and ensured her dining hall was stocked with them, baked muffins from scratch with flavors only available at Bread Loaf and provided a hot homemade meal six nights a week.

Overall, Stratman enjoyed her time at Bread Loaf. In particular, the opportunity to develop more intimate personal connections with students was a highlight.

"At The Grille, there are hundreds of students coming in at once, and the priority is getting them their food as quickly as possible. At Bread Loaf, I could remember people's personal preferences, like who prefers gouda cheese and details like that," she said.

Stratman also appreciated having more free range to cook what she wanted, compared to the food truck, where she would need to submit a menu for review. "I had more creative freedom at Bread Loaf because I didn't need to worry about profits and budgeting — I could just focus on making the students as happy as possible."

> "At Bread Loaf, I could remember people's personal preferences, like who prefers gouda cheese and details like that."

Still, there are a number of positives for Stratman in returning to her former position on campus now that Bread Loaf is no longer student housing. Aside from the shorter commute, she is looking forward to opening the food truck in the spring as well as offering concessions at outdoor athletic events for the first time.

Debbie Waters also continues to work part-time on campus in Ross Dining Hall, where she signs up to work at times that fit her own schedule as a member of the on-call list, according to Executive Director of Food Service Operations Dan Detora.

Another new job role created as a result of Bread Loaf housing was a shuttle driver position to ensure transportation to and from Bread Loaf was available to students throughout the day. According to Matt Curran, director of business services, a large part of the work was outsourced to the charter bus service Premier Coach, which the college also uses to transport athletics teams. Using Premier was especially helpful at popular times like Thursday evenings and weekends because they had larger vans than the 15-person shuttle the college used, according to part-time driver Keith Ellery, associate director for Public Safety.

However, a significant portion of the driving was done by Middlebury employees. Nate Orvis, who worked in custodial services and has now returned to that position, drove the shuttle from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., five days a week.

Driving the shuttle became Orvis' full-time role, but the position was also offered as an opportunity for employees to work overtime. Public Safety officers Rick Iffland and Mark Johns drove the shuttle on some weeknights for time-and-a-half pay. Ellery also drove the shuttle on some mornings when Orvis was not available.

Ellery shared that he and his fellow Public Safety officers valued the opportunity to meet students, especially at times like the 6 a.m. pickup when only a couple students would take the shuttle.

"It was really positive to be able to interact with students in a capacity not related to Public Safety services," he said.

Curran expressed immense appreciation for the Middlebury employees who stepped up to the task.

"We had a hard time finding people to drive — everyone was busy, especially with staffing shortages. When the shuttle service ended the first week of February, we said a big thank you to our drivers," he said.

Response team spearheads Covid-19 operations and offers students support over past two years

By BRINLEA LaBARGE
News Editor

When Covid-19 began to spread in early 2020, Middlebury's Crisis Management Team was the first to respond at the college. The team, a core group of college administrators, gathered to consider their options for sending students and faculty home, closing campus grounds and moving to an online teaching platform. As the pandemic continued to unfold, it was all hands on deck as faculty, staff and students worked together to address the novel situation.

In the two years since Middlebury closed its campus, the college established its own Covid-19 response team to manage safety guidelines, testing strategies and positive Covid-19 cases. Since its inception, the Covid-19 response team has shifted its structure and responsibilities as the pandemic has evolved. Most recently, the team has begun rotating work every two weeks to alleviate some stress, although some staff members continue their work every week if they have the capacity.

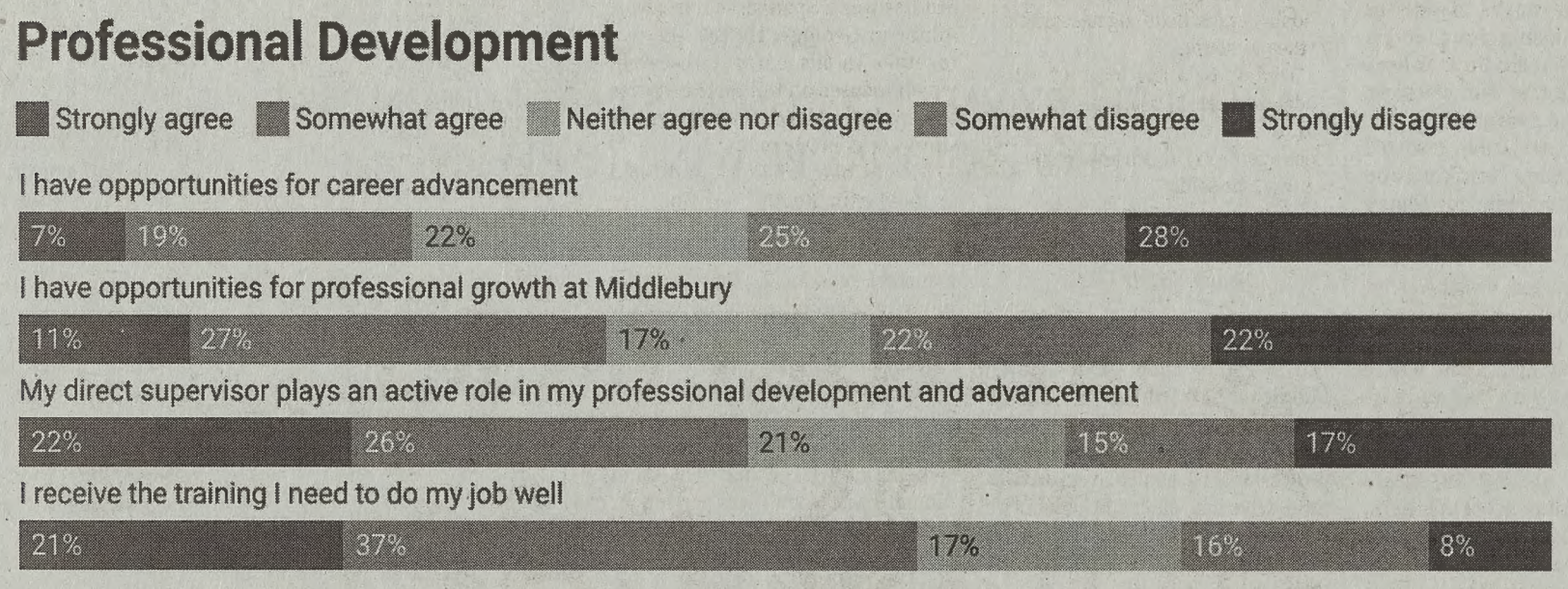
"In January 2022, we adjusted our staffing model to support Covid-19 to a two-week team approach in an effort to centralize our efforts and reduce burnout for many of our staff, many of whom have been managing Covid-19-related support for the past two years," Vice President for Human Resources Caitlin Goss wrote in an email to The Campus.

Fifteen representatives from Health Services, Custodial Services, Student Life, Environmental Health and Safety and Communications serve on the interdepartmental team, though the college continues to adjust numbers every two weeks as needed. Staff members are trained for various responsibilities, including checking students in for testing, administering tests, reporting Covid-19 cases and monitoring the dashboard. Some Health Services specialists are equipped with personal protective gear and trained to transport Covid-positive students, deliver food and provide custodial service to isolation housing.

The commitment of the Covid-19 response team to leading the college through the pandemic is a reflection of the community's hard work. Two years after the onset of the virus, the Covid-19 Response Team continues to steer students and staff through some of the most challenging times and keep our community safe.

"[T]his is a team of incredibly dedicated and versatile individuals who have the strongest commitment to keeping our community healthy and safe," Goss said. "This work began when there were many unknowns about the virus, before vaccination and masks were a part of everyday life. They have provided both continuity and the ability to shift strategy quickly in a rapidly changing environment."

STAFF COUNCIL SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS STAFF CONCERNS IN VERMONT AND MONTEREY



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Staff salaries have been a source of dissatisfaction for several years. The lowest wages offered at the college — $12.80 per hour — lies below the $14.01 living wage for a single adult without children in Addison County. For two working adults with a child, the living wage is as high as $17.30.

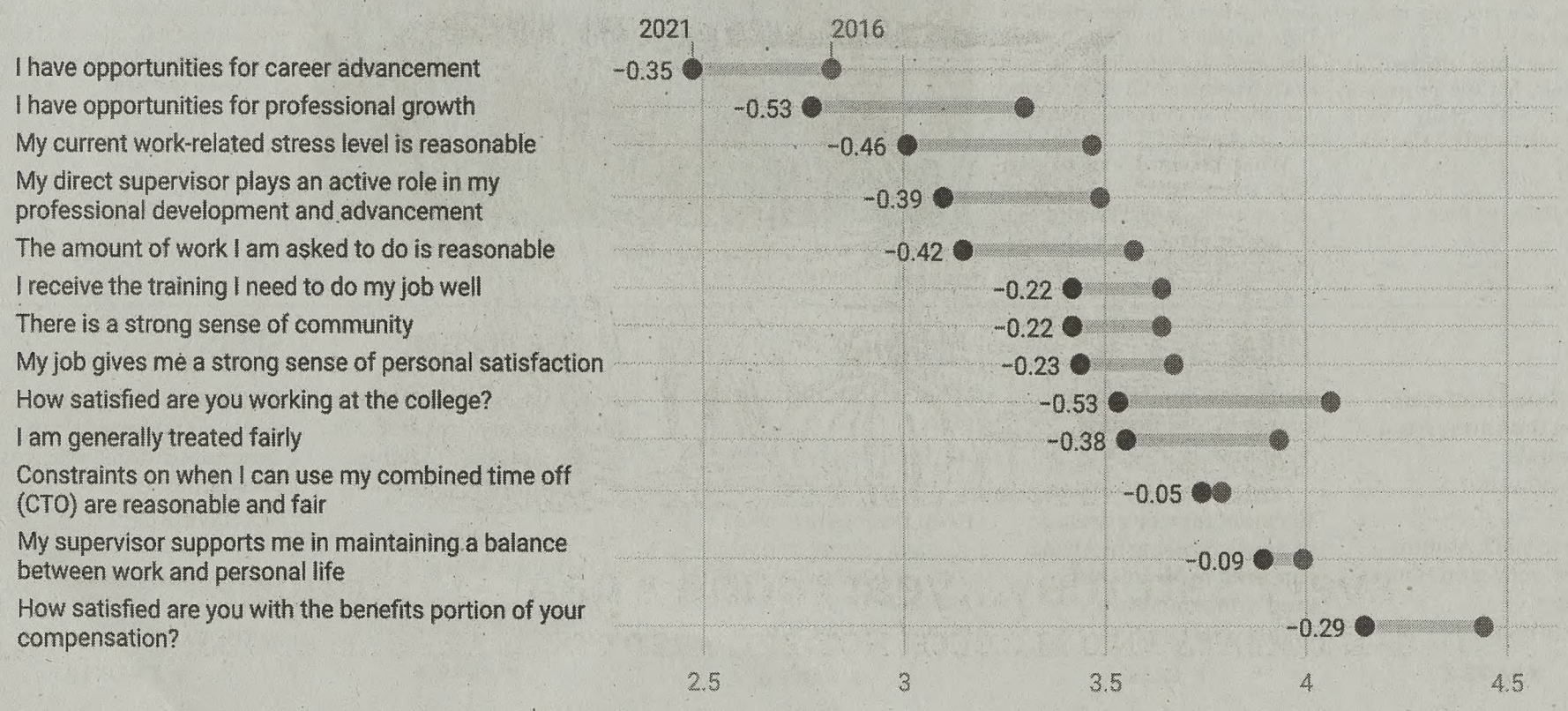
As minimum wages have risen in Vermont, wage compression has also become a source of tension for staff. New hires can start at salaries comparable to staff who have worked at the college for more than a decade, because internal raises have not matched the pace of minimum wage increases.

Staff across the institution reported a lack of opportunities for career development, but facilities (District F) and custodial (District J) staff reported particularly high levels of dissatisfaction with advancement at the college.

The Staff Council conducted a similar survey in 2016, asking many questions that reappeared on the 2021 survey. Responses were more negative in many categories, with responses to "How satisfied are you working at the college?" and "I have opportunities for professional growth" seeing notable decreases.

Responses to Staff Survey: 2016 vs. 2021

Of questions asked both in 2016 and 2021, the mean response on a scale from Strongly Agree (5) to Strongly Disagree (1) went down on several key questions.


2021
2016
I have opportunities for career advancement
-0.35
I have opportunities for professional growth
-0.53
My current work-related stress level is reasonable
-0.46
My direct supervisor plays an active role in my professional development and advancement
-0.39
The amount of work I am asked to do is reasonable
-0.42
I receive the training I need to do my job well
-0.22
There is a strong sense of community
-0.22
My job gives me a strong sense of personal satisfaction
-0.23
How satisfied are you working at the college?
-0.53
I am generally treated fairly
-0.38
Constraints on when I can use my combined time off (CTO) are reasonable and fair
-0.05
My supervisor supports me in maintaining a balance between work and personal life
-0.09
How satisfied are you with the benefits portion of your compensation?
-0.29
2.5
3
3.5
4
4.5

"A LITTLE BIT OF NORMALCY": DINING MOVES AWAY FROM TO-GO, BUT UNDERSTAFFING PERSISTS

By KATIE FUTTERMAN
News Editor

The beginning of the spring semester brought a return to seemingly "normal" dining operations, with staff shifting schedules and dining hall procedures to fully accommodate indoor dining, regular Grille hours and the impending opening of the food truck.

"We're trying to get a little bit of normalcy here," said Dan Detora, executive director of food service operations.

Detora said that the decision to open the semester with in-person dining was ultimately up to health professionals. Testing, along with many students remaining on campus between J-Term and spring semester, made it unnecessary to enforce to-go dining. He acknowledged that grab-and-go was an inconvenience, especially to students who live far away from the dining halls.

"It's been two years of meetings and craziness," Detora said.

The team has dealt with feeding students in isolation, moving several times between grab-and-go, indoor dining and food delivery during room quarantine periods and more.

Detora said that throughout the past two years, it has largely been a collaborative effort between health professionals, the Covid-19 Response Team, senior leadership and dining staff.

"We've had more meetings and stuff about what's going on so we're more informed," said Jesse Durant, a dishwasher in Proctor Dining Hall. "The head of dining, Dan Detora, gets us all together during the day once a month and tells us what's going on. That's been very helpful."

Catering Manager Megyn Pitner led the delivery of meals to students in isolation due to the absence of catered events on campus during the pandemic. The food comes from Atwater during the week and the Grille on the weekends.

Pitner and her team are still delivering meals to students who have been moved into isolation housing. But beginning last night, Covid-positive students in in-room isolation are allowed to leave to get food to-go from Proctor at 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. The change is due to the large number of positive cases on campus. A separate food pick-up area has been designated in the dining hall for students picking up meals at 10:30 a.m., which falls during Proctor's open hours for all students.

At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, many members of the dining staff shifted from working in the dining halls to cleaning dorms and doing other work for facilities. By August 2020, the staff were back in their roles in dining.

Dining has also returned to the carabiner system — where students must exchange a carabiner to get a plastic to-go box — as the to-go option after suspending it during the pandemic.

"We tried to give the students the benefit of the doubt and not use the carabiner system, and that did not work at all, and we lost anywhere from 3,000–5,000 containers," said Detora.

Like many other departments at the college, the dining staff have experienced the effects of understaffing. Durant said that although his normal hours are 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., many nights are a lot longer because there is so much to do and so few staff.

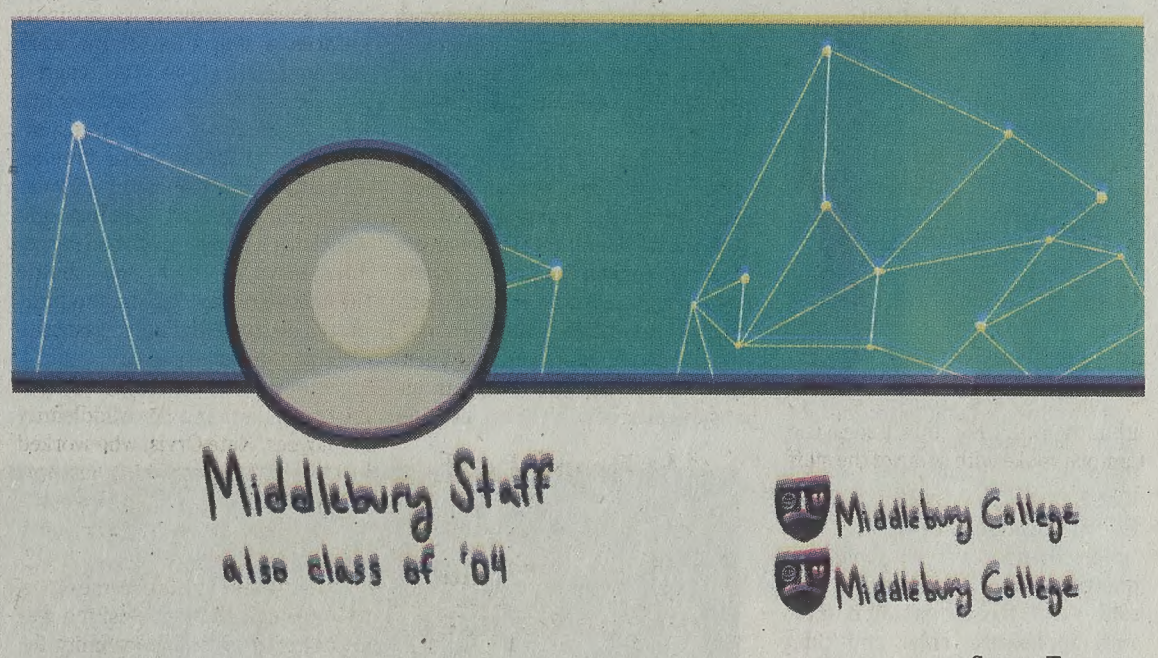
The Grille has also transitioned back to a payment system for the spring semester. During J-term, the Grille still offered a limited-option lunch plan as part of the regular meal plan.

Now that there are no longer students living at Bread Loaf, the full-time chef Jen Stratman is back to her normal role at the Grille and will return to her role in the food truck when it opens in the spring.

Detora noted that dining services has continued to serve food to students throughout the shifts in modality and scheduling necessitated by the pandemic.

"Dining is a big part of what students experience on this campus, and so we've had to be in these meetings pretty much every step of the way," he said.

Students to staff: Alumni employees reflect on time at Middlebury



Sabrina Templeton

By BEN WAGNER
Staff Writer

While Middlebury students often scatter across the globe after graduation, some chose to remain in Vermont and work for the college or return many years later to their alma mater. According to Maggie Paine, director of advancement at the college, 7% of college faculty and staff are alumni. The Campus wanted to know how those alumni who have remained at the college see their time as MiddKids in relation to their current roles at the college, and how the campus has changed since their time as students.

Devin McGrath-Conwell '18.5 currently serves as the digital media coordinator for Projects for Peace and as the digital marketing specialist in advancement. An English and Film double major, he currently works on social media outreach and storytelling. McGrath-Conwelle said that the work he did for The Campus as a student has also had an impact on his current roles.

Miguel Fernández '85, the outgoing chief diversity officer and current Professor of Luso-Hispanic Studies was a Spanish major with a minor in Geology. He ties the two together in his current research, which focuses on telling the stories of people involved in 19th century shipwrecks in Mexico.

Head Coach of Track and Field team Martin Beatty '84, was also a Midldebury student. Beatty majored in History of Art and Architecture and found that the training he received in his major has helped him in coaching form and technique in track and field.

Ken Pohlman, who spent two years at Middlebury before graduating from NYU in '78 and currently serves as the Museum Designer. Pohlman graduated from NYU as a Film Production major, having left Middlebury because it did not offer that major. He told The Campus that he uses skills learned in his major and through student work at Wright Theater every day in his current position.

> "Midd was only $4,200 when I attended in the fall of 1974. I worked summers in a paper factory in Chester, Pennsylvania, where I could earn half of my comprehensive fee in a summer."

Pohlman noted a major difference between the Middlebury of 1974 and the Middlebury of today.

"Midd was only $4,200 when I attended in the fall of 1974. I worked summers in a paper factory in Chester, Pennsylvania, where I could earn half of my comprehensive fee in a summer," Pohlman said.

Pohlman, Fernández and Beatty all noted the physical improvements to campus since their time as students.

"The nucleus of the campus is the same, but much has been renovated and added, such as Mahaney, Bi-Hall, the town houses, Coffrin, Davis Family Library, the indoor track, pool, rink and squash facilities," Beatty said. "McCullough did not have the Grille or Midd Xpress. It was the pool and squash courts."

Fernández also emphasized the change in the composition of the student body.

"I could tell you that when we were here in the eighties, us students of color and international students together made up less than 6% of the student body," Fernández said. "And this year, the incoming class, about 30% students of color. And about 14% international students."

He also noted that, at the time, only about 20% of students were on financial aid, compared to approximately 50% today.

Beyond that, Fernández also noted that many programs, specifically the arts and natural sciences, have significantly improved since his time at Middlebury.

Staff members' favorite places in Middlebury

By AUDREY PEIKER
Contributing Writer

From the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) to Haymaker Buns and the Marquis Theater, the town of Middlebury is buzzing with places to go, things to do and people to see. Amidst all of these options, many residents and college staff members have their special favorite locations.

Nate Burt, a member of Middlebury's Managed Devices & Software team in ITS, immediately shared that HappyValley Orchard was his favorite location in town.

"I only had to think about that question for a few moments," he said. "Our freezer is often filled with applesauce, cider and cider donuts, and dried apples are in the pantry. Sometimes while cycling up past the orchard on my way to work the smell of Stan Pratt's fresh cider donuts wafts across the road."

Burt shared that one of his favorite memories from the orchard is bringing a peck of apples back to share with all of the residents of the second floor center hallway in Battell.

Another staff member, Cindy "Pij" Slater, has worked for the college since her graduation from Middlebury in the mid 80s. Slater currently works behind the scenes at the Help Desk on documentation and websites.

"There's definitely a lot of spots along the TAM," she said. Specifically, Slater said she loves both watching the sunrise on the bench on the east side of Chipman Hill and the all-weather boardwalk that goes out to Otter Creek by the Pulp Mill Bridge.

"It feels like you're miles away from everything," she said. "I'm giving away all my good secret spots."

Charlotte Tate, an employee at the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs, also named the TAM as her favorite location, specifically the Otter Creek Gorge section between Morgan Horse Farm Road and Belden Falls, for which she is a trail monitor. Tate said she loves to walk that section with her dogs.

Tate's interest in the TAM perhaps goes beyond that of the average Middlebury resident — one year she decided to walk the entire TAM once every month. "I think my dog could do it blind after that," Charlotte said with a laugh.

Jami Black, associate vice president for Advancement Operations at the Office of Advancement, said her love for her favorite place, the Ilsley Public Library, is tied to her 11-year-old daughter.

"[We] spent a lot of time in the children's library as she was growing up," Black said, adding that they attended all of the book sales together. It became her and her daughter's special tradition to go across the street to Shafer's or Otter Creek for a sweet treat after their library visits.

"It was nice to have something fun to do together," Black said.

Jonathan Kemp is Middlebury's telescope and scientific computing specialist and his wife, Wendy Shook, also works at the college as a science data specialist. Kemp said that he and his wife's experiences at Middlebury are closely intertwined, and many of his favorite locations are the places they go together.

Kemp said he especially loves Royal Oak Coffee.

"[It is a] great locally run coffee shop," he said, mentioning that it can be helpful to get off-campus when meeting people.

'It can be kind of creative to get out of your normal paradigm, to get outside of your comfort zone, your normal digs, your normal work... office," Kemp said.

Another staff member, Erika Paine, the college's constituent records assistant, is apparently known among her department for her food reviews. "I originally thought [this interview] was only on favorite places to eat in Middlebury," Paine said. She noted that her favorite sit-down restaurant is Mister Ups because it is both adult- and kid-friendly.

Paine added that Seven South Sandwich Company takes the award for her favorite sandwich place.

"Don't sleep on their ranch," Paine said.

COURTESY OF CINDY "PIJ" SLATER

Help Desk staff member Cindy "Pij" Slater said that the Trail Around Middlebury is her favorite spot in town, especially the bench on the east side of Chipman Hill (left) and the all-weather boardwalk that goes out to Otter Creek by the Pulp Mill Bridge (right).

HIGH HOUSING PRICES IN ADDISON COUNTY AND MONTEREY PROVE CHALLENGING FOR STAFF

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Reflecting on her career and position at Middlebury, Tatro was resolute. "[I've] been here forever," she said, adding she will likely work for the college in the future despite these issues. When asked what she wished the college would do differently in terms of housing, Tatro mentioned the college's promise to fix wages in the near future. When prompted, Tatro mentioned it would be a positive if the college provided housing for staff, but said she knew this depends on the position an employee holds.

As Curran explained, Middlebury's current housing for employees only provides for faculty, a norm created before his time. The college owns 72 units in town, and Middlebury acts as the landlord for these units. This year, for the first time in a long time, 100% of these units are full. The units are rented to faculty at near market rate prices, in an attempt to ensure the school is not harming town markets. Housing stays are limited to six years, or one year after a professor gets tenure. These measures ensure Middlebury is not monopolizing the housing market. Housing is often used as a draw to attract faculty to the college.

"Housing is used as a recruitment tool," Curran explained, adding, "Not many faculty are from the area, and most staff is local." This means that most faculty have some housing conditions written into their agreements to support their move to Middlebury. Generally, this is not applicable to staff, who often already live in the local area.

Additionally, the college has a second mortgage program, where the college helps subsidize mortgages for faculty. If a faculty member qualifies for this program, a determination made in their appointment letter, the college can sign on to their mortgage as a co-lender, and sign as a second mortgage for up to half of the house. Most staff do not "qualify," meaning they don't have this support negotiated into their contract.

Through staff benefits, however, the college has an employee assistance program. Curran himself mentioned talking with staff and putting them in touch with brokers and landlords to help staff find affordable homes. The lack of infrastructure for staff housing, however, presents an issue for staff that faculty do not face.

Curran recognized that in general, Addison County needs more housing. He discussed the college's interest in working with local government as well as developers to build more homes in the area on land the college already owns. This housing would ideally be available to help ease the strain on housing. At the moment, however, it seems evident that amidst a difficult housing market, staff face larger burdens for finding housing than faculty.

As for MIIS, the city of Monterey, home to the institute, is one of the most expensive housing markets in the country, and several aspects of Monterey's housing landscape make it different from Middlebury.

First, Monterey only owns one four-unit apartment building. Bought by an anonymous donor in 2006, two of the units are dedicated as guest housing, provided for visitors to Monterey such as administrators or professors from Vermont, for example. The two downstairs apartments, however, are set aside for staff. As in Addison County, these units are meant to entice employees to move to Monterey. In Monterey, however, both units are rented to staff, not faculty, at a rate considerably below market price; both are meant to be used as long term rentals. Monterey does not have any other employee housing.

MIIS housing is limited in other ways: only in fall 2021 did Monterey start providing dormitory housing to its students, and the majority still live in off-campus housing.

Another key difference between MIIS and Monterey is the fact that MIIS relies on contracted custodial staff. As Barbara Burke, executive assistant to the vice president of Monterey, explained, MIIS has a contract with an outside agency that provides custodial staff for the school. Details on the wages of these staff are less known, and MIIS generally has knowledge of what the school pays the agency as a whole, rather than individual staff wages.

Staff at MIIS also generally have higher wages than staff at Middlebury, due to California minimum wage and the high cost of living. As Burke explained, all staff make at least 18 dollars an hour, and most make more than that. Staff employed by MIIS make more on average than college staff, because they include those working in the financial aid office, Human Resources, media services, the library and more. This different niche of MIIS staff impacts the provided wages and influences how staff navigate housing.

> "MIIS employees usually have a pretty good senses of humor, so there was a lot of joking around about us all living in garages. But I think that quite a few of us were worried about how hard it was to find a place we liked that was even remotely affordable."

Still, housing can be difficult. Some staff live in other parts of Monterey, which, while technically still a part of the area (Salinis, for example, is a 15-minute drive away), are less touristy and therefore less expensive than the heart of Monterey. As Burke remarked, Monterey is beautiful and has a lot to offer. But it's also expensive.

Joelle Mellon, a research and instruction librarian at MIIS, teaches library skills to students and helps people at MIIS find information for papers or projects. Although Mellon is happy with her current living situation, it took her almost two years to find a satisfactory living arrangement.

Mellon's housing journey indicates how difficult finding housing in Monterey is: after living with two sets of roommates in two different houses, Mellon lived in an RV for almost a year during the pandemic.

"Somewhat absurdly, I then moved into an RV for almost a year, since it was one of the few places I could afford to live alone," she said in an email to The Campus.

Living alone became a necessity once the pandemic led to her working from home. Finally, she found an affordable studio apartment in Seaside, a nearby neighborhood. The apartment is tiny, but not far from the school. It is also near a beach and restaurants. Plus, she said, the weather in Monterey is fantastic.

Despite her difficulties finding housing, Mellon had positive things to say about the MIIS administration's role in housing.

"I want to emphasize that it isn't the fault of anybody at Midd or MIIS that getting a place to live around here is so hard," she said. "The Monterey area is just an incredibly challenging housing market. After I was hired here, I cannot tell you how many times an administrator spontaneously checked in with me to ask about how my housing search was going. They genuinely care."

She added, however, that an official staff and faculty network to help acclimate new hires to the area would be helpful.

Mellon stressed that it is possible to find decent, affordable, housing in Monterey.

"You just need to put the time, energy and effort in that's necessary to get it (although a bit of luck doesn't hurt)" she said. "I wanted the chance to tell folks who are currently looking for an apartment what worked for me," she added.

In her housing search, Mellon first used Craigslist and then switched to Zumper, a database specifically for apartments. She found their database more reliable. Mellon stressed the immediacy needed in the Monterey area.

"I had to check Zumper at least once per day, every single day... The housing market is so ridiculously competitive in the Monterey area that nice, affordable apartments will get taken within hours of being posted... If anything came up that looked like it had potential, I acted on it immediately, calling or texting the landlord(s) literally within minutes," she said.

This process required making big decisions, like signing a lease, at a moment's notice.

Despite the stressors involved in finding a house in Monterey, Mellon said staff are able to laugh at the process.

"MIIS employees usually have a pretty good senses of humor, so there was a lot of joking around about us all living in garages. But I think that quite a few of us were worried about how hard it was to find a place we liked that was even remotely affordable," she said.

Both in Monterey and in Addison County, staff struggle with housing. Although there are numerous factors beyond the college's control, staff who spoke with The Campus felt that a heightened understanding of the issues can create better understanding, as well as lead to actionable steps the college can take such as providing support forums, higher wages, and staff housing.

Vermont farmer's dream of dogsled racing in Alaska captured in Middlebury grad's documentary

By SUSANNA SCHATZ
Contributing Writer

Doug Butler, a resident of Middlebury, is a dairy farmer-turned-dogsled racer whose story was captured in a feature-length documentary by filmmaker Tommy Hyde '14.5 that premiered in September of 2021.

During his first year at Middlebury, Hyde took Professor Pete Lowry's J-Term course, Adventure Writing and Digital Storytelling, in which students connect with a member of the local community and create a short film about them to learn the ins and outs of basic filmmaking. Hyde and a classmate were connected with Butler, a Middlebury dairy farmer.

Butler was born and raised in Vermont on the dairy farm that his family bought in 1926. He planned to attend the University of Vermont, but was instead drawn to stay and work on the family farm in a time of hardship — and it became his life's work. When Hyde began filming Butler in 2012, he learned that Butler had not ever been away from his farm for more than five days.

Butler's dream of dog sled racing was born in 1976, when he watched a race for the first time in Shelburne, Vermont. He soon saw an advertisement in the newspaper selling a team of dogs, and he jumped on the opportunity. Butler has participated in hundreds of dogsled races since.

Over forty years later, Hyde's feature-length documentary about his and Butler's journey across the country, racing Butler's dog team in Alaska, "Underdog," premiered at Camden Film Festival this past September.

Hyde learned by doing throughout the process of creating "Underdog."

"I figured that the best way to become a documentary director is to just direct a documentary," Hyde said.

The film explores the loneliness and isolation experienced by small rural farmers like Butler. Hyde explained that he sees the film as uniquely relevant right now, as the Covid-19 pandemic begins its third year.

Courtesy of Doug Butler

Doug Butler racing with his dogs in the 1980s.

Courtesy of Doug Butler

TOP: Doug Butler racing his dogs in Alaska. BOTTOM:Doug Butler and one of his sled dogs, Dylan, on Butler's Vermont farm.

"I think it's kind of a unique moment for Doug's story because I think we all have a lot to learn from it, and his ability to find enjoyment and happiness while all of those things are omnipresent. I think it's really his defining characteristic," Hyde said.

Butler excitedly explained the adventure he and Hyde had driving from Vermont to Fairbanks, Alaska, to compete in the Open North American Sled Dog Race, and the incredible nature they witnessed along the way.

"It was the most exciting time of my life. I have to do that again," Butler said.

Today Butler, alongside Middlebury graduate Jules Struzyna '19.5 and current Middlebury student Carson Williams '23.5, runs Cobble Hill Kennel whenever Butler is not dogsled racing. Williams is currently on a gap semester and working full time at the kennel. Like Hyde, he met Butler during his first year at Middlebury through Professor Lowry's J-Term course.

Cobble Hill Kennel offers dogsled rides out of Farr's Field in Waterbury, Vermont, as well as on the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) trail in the Mad River Valley. In 2020 and 2021, Cobble Hill Kennel raised enough money to send Butler out West for the Wyoming Pedigree Dogsled Race, the largest race of its kind in the lower forty-eight.

"You just can't explain how great the dogs are and what they do for people, and how high you get when you're on that sled," Butler said.

Butler has recently started connecting through his dogs with people in the community who have special needs. He has hosted children with disabilities on his farm and taught them how to care for the dogs.

"Quite a few people told me that it really helps their minds," said Butler.

Although hard times led him to sell his dairy cows in 2019, Butler still raises cattle. He delivers the beef that he raises to nursing homes and hospitals throughout Vermont.

"Sometimes I'll sneak a puppy into the living room, and there goes two hours and the older generation gets to play with a puppy. It's a lot of fun to see happy people," Butler said.

When asked about challenges he faces in his dog sledding work, Butler responded that there was no struggle involved, just a whole lot of fun.

"If you have a bad day, go play with the dogs," Butler said.

Williams works closely with Butler on a near-daily basis, and he emphasized the optimism Butler brings to all he does.

"He can get set back, of course, and I feel like working at a kennel is full of setbacks ... but he is a perpetual optimist, he is always looking forward to the next thing, he's always happy and ready to go, and he's always got a smile on his face," Williams said.

Second jobs and stagnant wages: Middlebury staff struggling to make a living

Continued from Page 1

a loan, or to buy a car, and the bank questions how good we are at our job... We make so little with our years of service and just have higher interest rates," the custodian said.

The administration addressed issues of wage compression with faculty and staff over the summer for the 2021-22 school year.

"In addition, we will be taking steps to address wage compression. Following our efforts to increase the pay of benefits-eligible employees in pay grades OP1, OP2, and OP3 to $14, $15, and $16 in 2020, we will apply adjustments to ensure that length of service is considered consistently when setting individual pay rates," the Office of EVP and Treasurer wrote in an email to faculty and staff in June 2021. "Correcting this wage disparity is an important step in recognizing the value that our experienced staff members bring to Middlebury."

In spite of these adjustments, the custodian said that they must go straight from a full day of work at the college to night shifts as a line cook at a local restaurant, often not returning home until 10:30 or 11 p.m.

After paying for rent, food and other necessities, along with the money taken out for taxes, they are left with about $5 from the college's paycheck.

"It's hard; it is not easy," they said. "[I work] just to make up for the extra income that I don't have."

During the pandemic, Middlebury froze salaries for faculty and staff across the board. Since the beginning of that wage freeze, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has risen by 10%, while faculty and staff wages have increased by 2%, on average. Though neither faculty or staff wage increases have matched that of inflation, faculty pay raises have historically been more generous than staff pay raises. Accounting for inflation, cumulatively from 2000 to 2020, faculty have received a net 40% increase in wages and staff a net 13% increase in wages, according to Parson's op-ed.

The Middlebury American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is pushing "The Campaign for 10," which is an initiative for a 10% pay raise for all faculty and staff for the 2022-23 school year to offset the 10% rise in CPI since the pandemic. According to Andrew Fieldhouse, assistant professor of economics and member of the Middlebury AAUP Chapter Budget Committee, the college would need

> "The college is paying people considerably less today than when the pandemic started."

to raise salaries and wages by 8.2% to adjust for current inflation, while forecasts for the summer indicate that inflation will have risen to 10% by then.

"It is understandable that the pandemic generated a lot of concern about the college's finances, but the stock market has more than rebounded since then, and the college is raising tuition," Fieldhouse said. "The college is paying people considerably less today than when the pandemic started."

Though the college has raised tuition for the past two academic years that have occurred during the pandemic, a recent college Newsroom article said that the Board of Trustees has not yet decided on tuition costs for the 2022-23 academic year.

According to Caitlin Goss, vice president of human resources and chief people officer, over the past 10 fiscal years, staff salaries have increased between 2% and 6% per year, with the exception of the 2021 fiscal year due to the financial pressures created by the pandemic.

"Each year Middlebury conducts a comprehensive review of pay and benefits to staff to ensure it remains a leading employer of choice in Addison County," Goss wrote in an email to The Campus.

Goss added that Human Resources has been developing a new plan and way of thinking about staff compensation, which will be rolled out at the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2022.

"This program is based on thinking about how pay motivates and rewards employees for the impact and ownership of the work they do at Middlebury, making it a better place to learn and thrive. The program will include market-based ranges for all positions and a significant increase in base pay for those in entry-level pay grades. Work is underway with departments across campus to pilot the new program," she wrote.

Though it is unclear what impacts this new staff compensation program will have on wages, Fieldhouse maintained that the only way to fix current problems is by a wage increase of at least 10%.

"It is going to be a problem with retention for both faculty and staff unless the administration makes a serious effort to reverse course," he said.

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The Middlebury Campus

Time to take notice

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

Before the pandemic, students would frequently interact in person with the custodial staff assigned to their housing spaces. FYCs and RAs would make a point of mentioning them by name to their residents and introducing them as members of the residential community. Last fall, when facilities staff were mandated to work in the early hours of the morning to reduce contact with students, these connections — along with other commonplace interactions — became uncommon.

This disconnect, however, is not something inherent to the pandemic. As students stream in and out of dining halls during rush hour, 'thank you's are few and far between. Patterns of student vandalism demonstrate a striking lack of awareness in regard to who ends up fixing broken lights or cleaning urine in elevators. For the most part, students do not have to face the members of our community who are tasked with addressing the aftermath of student entitlement. Additionally, student workers have remarked that their friends and acquaintances don't say hi or acknowledge them while on shift, as if they became invisible the minute they put on a Middlebury Dining hat.

> For the most part, students do not have to face the members of our community who are tasked with addressing the aftermath of student entitlement.

It's far past time to recognize Middlebury's staff for who they are — the people who make it possible for us to be here in the first place. The recent results of the staff council survey display a staggering level of dissatisfaction among Middlebury employees, relating to rampant understaffing, ineffective communication channels and below-livable wages, just to name a few.

The last thing that Middlebury staff need is aloofness and disregard from students. And while we as students feel limited in our ability to catalyze comprehensive institutional change, this does not mean potential actions would be futile. Members of our editorial board have also been told by staff that the most effective way for administrators to consider staff complaints is to get students involved — and in 2018, student protests were able to help galvanize a wage increase.

Therefore, it is not just about including staff — deliberately and consistently — in our definition of community. It's also about fighting for the entirety of this community in order to provide resources and support to those who make this school run.

In the survey, only 9% of staff noted that they strongly agree that their job duties are reflected by their pay level, and 46% state that they need a second source of income to make ends meet.

In a rural area like ours, it isn't easy for staff to simply walk away from the college if their needs aren't being met — but staff are still choosing to leave, despite the difficulties presented in doing so. Likewise, the majority of staff are satisfied with the college's benefits, but this in no way excuses the college's failure to raise wages.

While we implore students to rally on behalf of staff, we also recognize that this responsibility should not be ours. The voices and concerns of staff alone should be more than enough for the administration to listen, but these pleas are still seeming to fall on deaf ears.

The bottom line is that staff are not just an integral part of our community, they're the backbone of it. Students, while not the ones responsible for institutional shortcomings, wield tremendous power both on a small scale within our interpersonal reactions and with our position within the broader institution. It's time to take advantage of this power.

> It's far past time to recognize Middlebury's staff for what they are — the people who make it possible for us to be here in the first place.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN OUR PLACE?

Op-Ed

Kat Cyr '11 is an Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Associate.

I've worked at Middlebury as a staff member for more than five years now as a member of the Interlibrary Loan Team. I am not a librarian — I don't have the degree necessary for that title — I just work here behind the circulation desk on Interlibrary Loan (ILL) with the few who survived Workforce Planning and the brunt of the pandemic. We're a motley lot who do our best to get students the information and resources they need, but sometimes it feels like we're hiding the extent of the damage understaffing is causing in some misguided attempt to succeed at our work.

I, like so many workers who remain, am from a working class (ie: redneck) Vermont family. I was raised to brag about how much work I could pull in a week, to value the hustle above all else. Vacations are for the weak, especially if you aren't high enough on the food chain to get paid time off. Or, better yet, if you're in one of the departments in which you can't choose when you get time off, but instead have to bend to the will of your supervisors.

> The college has gone so understaffed for so long that it's honestly amazing that anything on this campus functions at all.

I'm one of the lucky ones who have some support. My immediate boss is awesome, as is hers. Still, every time I take time off I wonder: who has to suffer for it? Who's going to have to do my work on top of their own while I'm away? And what about the departments that are down to one person? Who covers their time away when they're the only person left?

The cracks are definitely starting to show. In 2021, a single staff member transferred out of their position in mailing services and the absence of anyone in that position brought our entire department at the library to a standstill for nearly a week. I'm willing to bet we weren't the only ones affected.

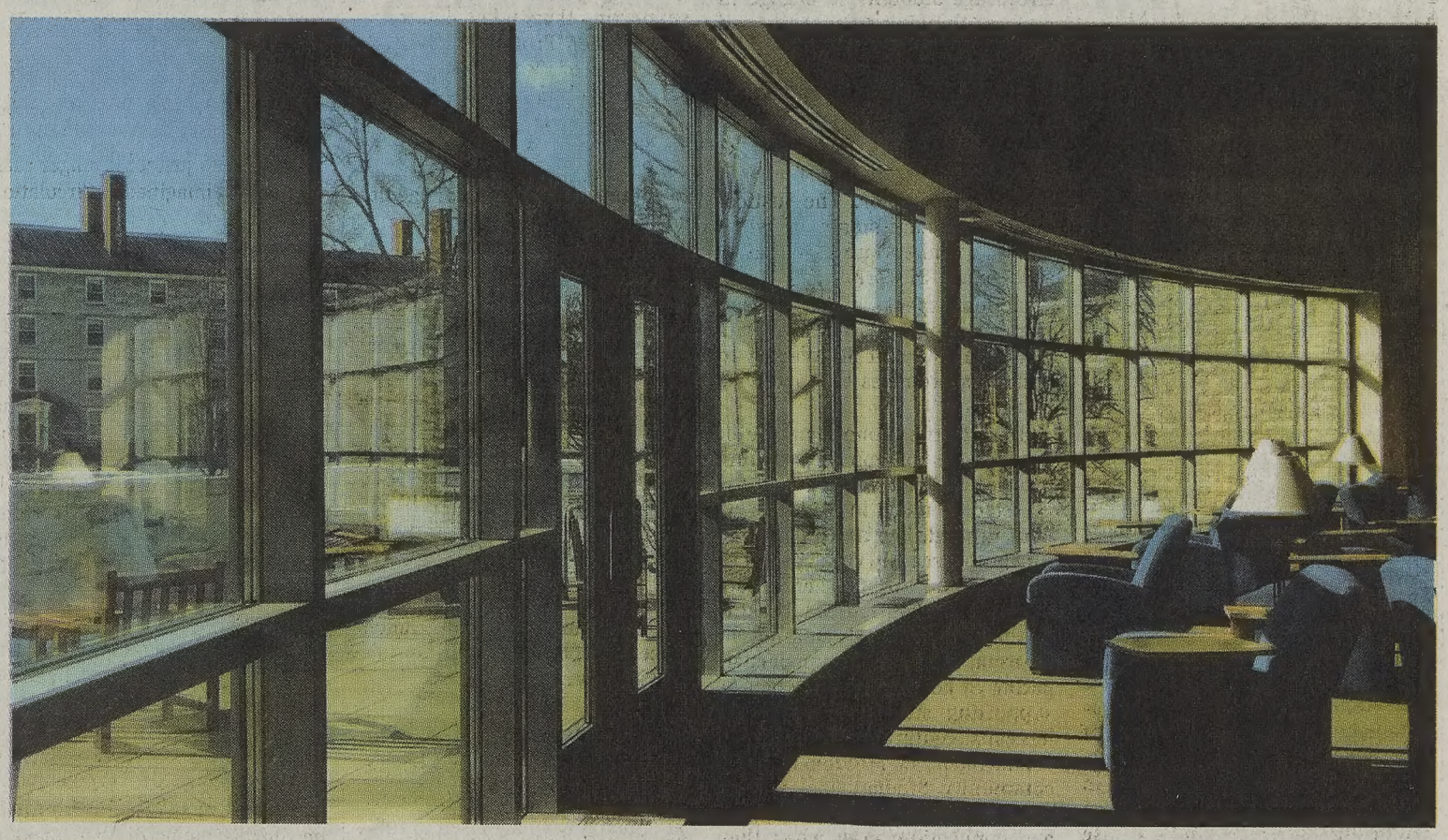
The college has gone so understaffed for so long that it's honestly amazing that anything on this campus functions at all. We've had people out for surgery, for serious months-long illness, for family emergencies, even, and no one was brought in to help make up for their absences over weeks or months. The work is just dumped onto the next available employee without so much as a gesture of increased compensation, adding even further to their already absurd workload. It's no wonder people are leaving hand over fist for better prospects, just for their position to be quietly eliminated with no hope of replacing them.

And that's where it comes down to work performance. We want to excel at what we do. We try to cover for each other, to make things work to the best of our abilities, but it feels like we're covering for mistakes we are not responsible for. The more we hustle and pitch in for our neighboring departments, the more the higher-ups can look down from their ivory towers and see nothing wrong. When we call for them to increase wages, to give us more help, they look over and say, "See, they're doing fine. They don't need any help," and assume that we're exaggerating our distress.

With as much inter-class distrust as there is on this campus, if these gaps aren't blatantly visible to the administrators, they will continue to ignore them. But how do you make that point without sacrificing your work performance and getting yourself fired? Or making student life even more stressful than it currently is? We are exhausted and burnt out and no matter how much we plead for help, it never seems to come.

> The more we hustle and pitch in for our neighboring departments, the more the higher-ups can look down from their ivory towers and see nothing wrong.

Here's where I should make a call for increased staffing and compensation. But that's not news — we've been pleading for it for years now. My question is simply: what would you do in our place?



DALEELAH SALEH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Why a(nother) staff issue?

Notes from the Desk

Riley Board '22 is the Editor in Chief of The Middlebury Campus. Lucy Townend '22, and Abigail Chang '23 are the Managing Editors of The Campus.

In January 2019, we published our first staff issue. It detailed the impact of workforce planning — a concerted administrative effort to reduce employee compensation costs by 10% — on the staff of the college. Three years (and one global pandemic) later, we again find ourselves in a critical time to better understand the experiences of Middlebury staff.

In February, the Staff Council published results from another staff survey conducted throughout the fall, which focused on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, compensation, work-life balance and other important topics relevant to the staff experience. We've used this staff survey as a jumping off point for this issue, with the responses informing our reporting and content this week.

Throughout this issue, you'll find an overview of the findings from the Staff Council survey, reporting on the challenges of the housing market in Addison County and Monterey, stories of the struggles staff face because of Middlebury's low wages, collections of staff's favorite places in town and hobbies outside of work and profiles of Middlebury athletics staff who were professional athletes, along with some of our usual coverage.

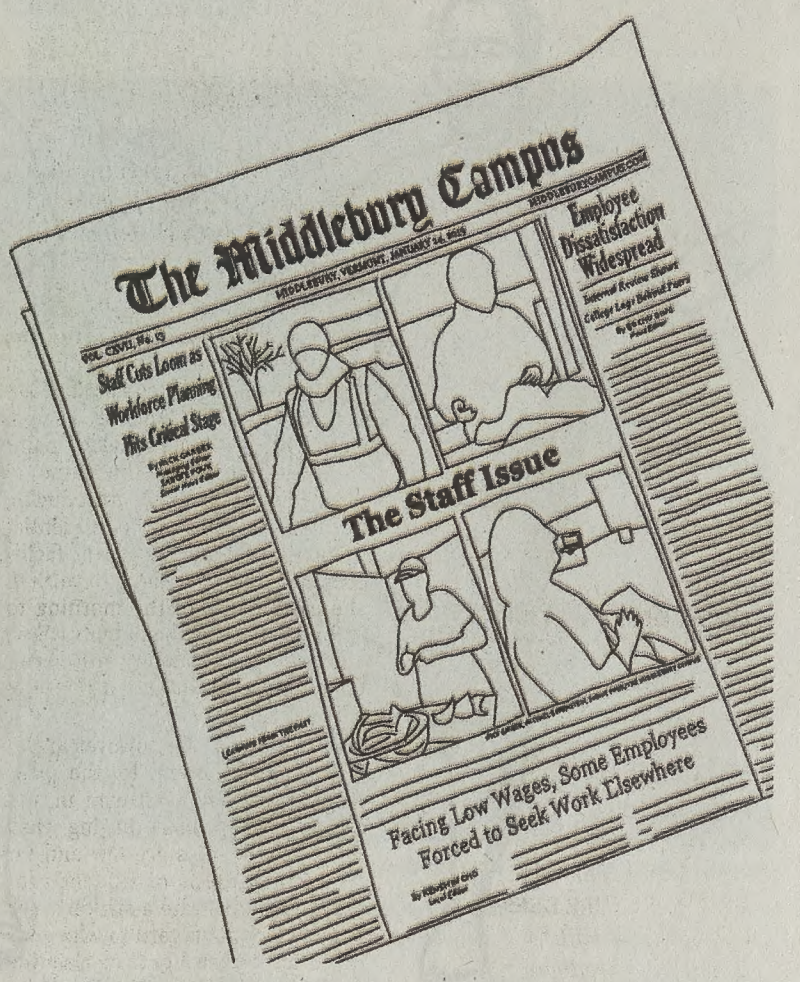
> ...a student newspaper can and must serve as a platform for all members of a college community, even (and sometimes most importantly) staff.

In their 2019 Notes from the Desk "Why a staff issue?", Nick Garber '19 and Rebecca Walker '19, the Managing Editors at the time who spearheaded the creation of the special issue, considered The Campus' role in reporting on staff. "Does being a student newspaper at a small college mean that we must confine ourselves to student issues? Or does it mean that we can serve as a platform for all stakeholders in our community despite our limited student perspective?" they asked.

For the three of us, our time spent as editors of The Campus has occurred in the wake of the first staff issue. Now, when we ask ourselves these questions, we are sure of the answer; our editorial focus in recenf years has been informed constantly and comprehensively by our belief that a student newspaper can and must serve as a platform for all members of a college community, even (and sometimes most importantly) our staff.

We hope we've honored the resolutions we made in our 2019 staff issue. In that issue, we made a commitment to bettering our coverage of the greater Middlebury community by reevaluating our anonymity policy. This was done in acknowledgement of the precarious positions that staff can find themselves in when sharing their experiences with their employer. In this issue, we renew our commitment to deep reporting on staff concerns and experiences beyond what has been published this week.

To staff reading this issue, we hope we've done justice to your contributions, concerns and cares. We hope you'll continue to share them with us.


The Middlebury Campus
Staff Cuts Loom as Workforce Planning Hits Critical Stage
Employee Dissatisfaction Widespread
The Staff Issue
Facing Low Wages, Some Employees Forced to Seek Work Elsewhere

Sabrina Templeton

Keep Professor Povitz

Op-Ed

Cara Levine '20, Eloise Berdahl-Baldwin '21.5, Kristen Morgenstern '24, Remi Welbel '22.5 and Yardena Gerwin '22.5 are current and former Middlebury students.

Dear President Patton,

Professor Lana Povitz has had a transformative impact on our lives since she joined our community in the fall of 2018. Her courses focus on the histories and legacies of liberation struggles in the United States, including Black and Jewish radical traditions, and movements for sexual freedom and gender justice. A passionate and enthusiastic educator, she supports students in becoming not only critical thinkers, but, just as importantly, critical actors in ongoing struggles for justice.

Due to Professor Povitz's tenuous status as a Visiting Professor, she has been forced to look for other positions with more job security. We are now in danger of losing Professor Povitz to the University of Montreal, where she has been offered a tenure-track position. The effects of this loss on our campus would simply be unfathomable. We are asking you to take swift action to match Professor Povitz's tenure-track offer so that she is able to remain at Middlebury.

> Actions speak louder than words. Retaining Professor Povitz would be a way for Middlebury to honor its promises and actualize its rhetoric.

We are living through a wave of escalated antisemitic white supremacist violence. In the wake of the deadly Nazi rally in Charlottesville, Synagogue massacre in Pittsburgh and defacement of the Addison County Havurah House with swastikas, it's especially important to teach American Jewish History. As of right now, Professor Povitz is the only faculty member who does this.

Her unique courses are leading to a resurgence of the Jewish Studies Program at Midd. Last fall, thirty-four students flocked to her Modern American Jewish History course — the first (but we hope not the last) time such a course was ever offered here. This is precisely the moment for the administration to invest in supporting the program by retaining Professor Povitz. Without her, so many of us would be lost, without avenues to explore who we are and where we come from, eager to turn elsewhere, instead of finding a home here at Middlebury.

Supporting a vibrant Jewish community, rooted in the antiracist feminist politics that Professor Povitz cultivates, is absolutely vital to our equity and social justice work as a college. Under your leadership, Middlebury has promised greater accountability for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in the hope that our predominantly white institution can disentangle itself from a long history of exclusion and white supremacy.

Of course, Middlebury's DEI work is not simply a matter of diversifying the student body and faculty. It is also about having faculty and pedagogy that critically encourage students to engage in systems-thinking, to consider and understand our own positionality within those systems and to learn from historical precedents of successful resistance. We do not believe this work should fall solely or particularly on the shoulders of faculty of color. The justice-oriented commitments of white faculty members are essential to successful DEI work.

Action speaks louder than words. Retaining Professor Povitz would be a way for Middlebury to honor its promises and actualize its rhetoric.

Despite the tenuous nature of her current position as a visiting professor, Professor Povitz has invested so much in Middlebury, both through her transformative, timely courses and creative teaching style and through her impact on Jewish life on campus. Whether through her work creating an informal text study group, participating in activities with Hillel or supporting student leaders, she has consistently demonstrated her commitment to Middlebury as a community. Students look to Professor Povitz for advice, support and connection, even when they have never taken a class with her. Many of us will stop by her office hours simply because we know of her, feel seen and heard by her, or want to talk through something. As the pandemic has emotionally drained our energies, Professor Povitz has gone above and beyond in supporting students' too-often overlooked mental health.

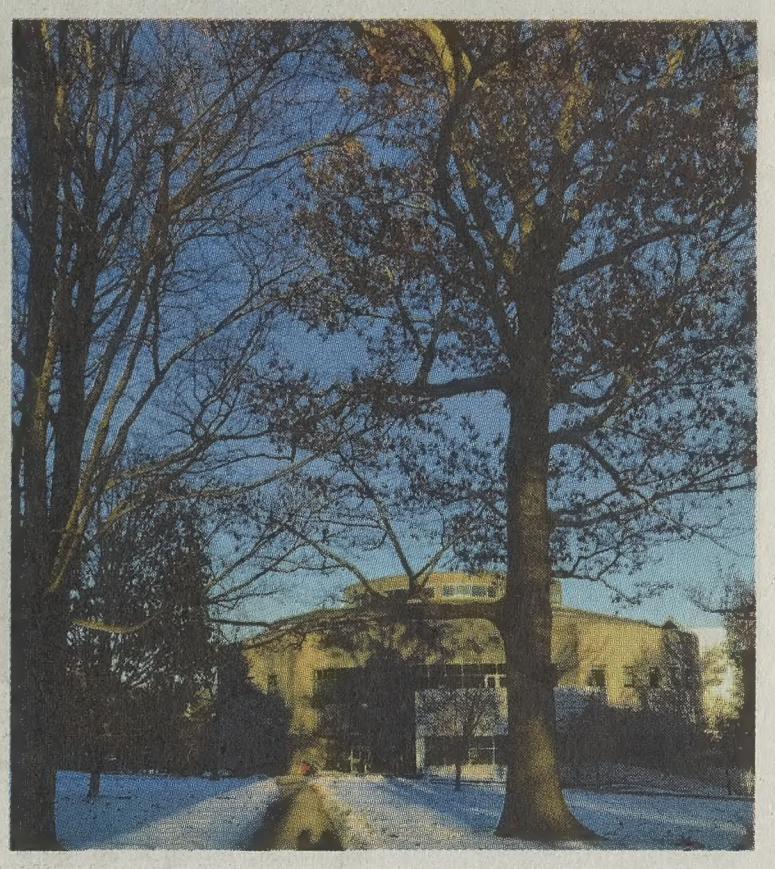
> Supporting a vibrant Jewish community, rooted in the antiracist feminist politics that Professor Povitz cultivates, is absolutely vital to our equity and social justice work as a college.

The time is now for Middlebury to recognize the precious investment Professor Povitz has made in us by fully investing in her. President Patton, you have an opportunity to leave a tremendous legacy here at Middlebury by supporting the student-led initiative to keep Professor Povitz. In a moment of rising antisemitism, you can make a material commitment to strengthening Jewish life on campus by retaining Professor Povitz. As the College struggles to retain women of color faculty, you can choose to support the first queer faculty partner hire in Middlebury history, helping to ensure that both Professor Povitz and her partner Professor Dima Ayoub (Assistant Professor of Arabic, CV Starr Fellow of International Studies, and former Director of the Middle East Studies program), a beloved faculty member who contributes in countless ways to our community, will continue to have a transformative impact on Middlebury students for generations to come.

Please visit go/keeppovitz to see the outpouring of student voices encouraging you to take this important action.

Cara Levine '20
Eloise Berdahl-Baldwin '21.5
Kristen Morgenstern '24
Remi Welbel '22.5
Yardena Gerwin '22.5

Circulation in the time of COVID-19



Daleelah Saleh/The Middlebury Campus

Op-Ed

Daniel Frostman is the Circulation Services Manager at Middlebury College

Once it became clear that the two-week quarantine was going to extend just a bit longer than originally imagined, Circulation staff at Davis and Armstrong Libraries realized that they needed to come up with a plan to keep offering library services to patrons. We implemented a paging system by which patrons could request the books they wanted via the online catalog. Circulation staff would pull the books from the shelves, check them out, pack them in brown paper bags to comply with library privacy laws (library patron records are confidential by federal law) and place them in the library vestibule for easy pickup.

Interlibrary Loan staff also continued offering their services, along with quickly implementing from scratch an entirely new book-scanning service to scan portions of books from our own collection for remote patrons. Occasionally, staff would meet cars for a drop-off on Storrs Avenue or even make a delivery to a doorstep. Course reserves moved entirely online, with many e-books being purchased and many of our own books being scanned and placed on Electronic Reserve. Returned books spent seven days in a special quarantine room, because, at the time, we did not know how transmissible (or not) the virus was on surfaces.

When the Library reopened to patrons in the fall of 2020, staff roped off all of the book stacks in order to ensure that only library staff would be handling books and to minimize potential patron congestion in the stacks. We continued to offer the paging services and did our best to keep patrons in the library physically distanced from one another and masked. Also at this time, the Helpdesk did not have staff in the building, so a large number of technical questions were brought to the circulation desk. Our small contingent of on-site staff stepped up and helped ensure that the library kept running in unprecedented times.

The library is now functioning essentially as it was pre-Covid; the stacks are open, equipment is circulating, books are no longer being paged. Masking and distancing restrictions are still in place, and community members are still not allowed into the building, but we are hopeful that these remaining restrictions will soon be a thing of the past.

After hours: A look at Middlebury College's staff in their freetime

This issue is about more than what staff do during their working hours. We wanted to get to know what some Middlebury staff do in their time off, so we spoke with three staff members about their favorite hobbies. Below is a brief glance at what they shared with us.

James Roberts, Ross Cook

During his time off, Roberts enjoys to stretch his limbs with a hike, kayaking or yoga, and was a fierce competitor on "Chopped's" Halloween special.

Peter Ross, Atwater Cook

In his freetime, Ross can be found most often in his garden or attending women's hockey games with his granddaughter.

Janine McDonald, Circulation Specialist II

When not in the library, McDonald soaks up Vermont's beautiful landscape through cross-country skiing, hiking and snowshoeing.

Interviews by Cassandra Dormeus. Art by Pia Contreras

WOMP welcomes performers and audience members to the Gamut Room

EMMANUEL TAMRAT/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Justin Cooper sings while Alex Stimpson keeps the beat on drums during January's last WOMP.

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Editor at Large

If you're looking for a mid-week study break, look no further than the basement of Gifford Hall. Every week performers and audience members alike gather for a Wednesday Open Mic Party (WOMP) in the Gamut Room to celebrate and support campus musicians.

Current WOMP Head Andrew Grossman '23.5 described WOMP as an "informal organization" where bands, solo acts and other performers can sign up to play music.

"It's a space where you can come without anything prepared," Grossman said. "I like how casual it is, but we also have acts who practice for weeks and come up and give amazing shows."

Grossman, who plays guitar, became involved with WOMP during his first semester on campus in the spring of 2020. He had been part of a band in high school and was in the process of learning some songs when he was notified that he had to leave campus. Grossman and friends then decided at the last minute to perform at WOMP.

"It was just like a fever dream," Grossman said. "The energy in that room was like one of the only things I remember from the first semester."

This past fall, Grossman became more involved with WOMP before ultimately taking over, often helping set up audio equipment and organize acts.

He's also in the process of trying to learn more about WOMP's mysterious past.

"WOMP is relatively new as a concept," Grossman said. "There's not a ton of intergenerational memory."

According to an article from The Campus, WOMP was founded in 2014 by Eyal Levy '14.5 and Mitchell Parrish '14 with the goal of uniting the music scene on campus.

WOMP's setting is a character in and of itself. The Gamut Room, with its beanbags, exposed rock and elaborately painted walls, is an ideal spot for such a creative event. Liam Wynne '21.5, a former WOMP head, also organized a painting project to add more art to the space.

The setting was also something that struck Marina Prikis '25, a regular WOMP performer who has headlined twice.

"I think it's vibrant and colorful. The setting is just so fitting for the event," Prikis said. "I think it's one of the most unique spaces in the school."

Prikis discovered WOMP during her first couple of weeks on campus and was eager to continue performing her music after high school.

"It's just a space to be able to share music I'm working on or just meet people with similar interests. I've been able to meet people I can collaborate with, and it's just a really great space and a lot of fun," Prikis said. She described the atmosphere as very supportive and encouraging and a great place to build confidence as an artist.

Both Grossman and Prikis emphasized how WOMP gives student artists a much needed outlet to express themselves — as well as providing a space for students to support each other.

"I think Middlebury has its stereotypes. You think a lot of outdoors, a lot of prep. But I think there's an overlooked music community," Grossman said. He hopes to expand WOMP's outreach in the coming months and organize more events.

Prikis also appreciates the diversity of music that WOMP spotlights.

"With WOMP you definitely find a lot of variety because you have the bands where it's very lively, and everyone's dancing, and it's a lot of fun, but you also have some of the more stripped down acts and solo acts. WOMP gives you a taste of everything," Prikis said.

As the spring starts, Grossman is excited for another semester of WOMP and encourages more students to come perform or watch on Wednesday evenings. "It's always here if you want to come," Grossman said.

WOMP is looking for more performers! Interested students should reach out to Andrew Grossman at gamutroom@middlebury.edu

RADIO ROUNDUP: Energizing the semester

By WRMC EXEC BOARD

**RIYL (recommended if you like)*

Library Manager's Pick — Kyle Hooker '24
Album: "Hollywood Town Hall" — The Jayhawks
Genre: Alt. Country, Rock
RIYL: Ryan Adams/Whiskeytown, Golden Smog
Blurb: This album features some nice harmonies and a really good overall sound; almost every song is enjoyable. The Jayhawks are fairly obscure and were less commercially successful than one would expect. This album, released in 1992, along with their 1996 album Tomorrow the Green Grass, are nostalgic for me since my family would frequently play these CDs while I was growing up. These albums also feature an interesting mix of mellow and raucous segments. I get a kick out of the album art on this one; it depicts the town hall in the rural village of Hollywood, Minnesota.

Programming Director's Pick — Gennie Herron '23
Album: "The E.N.D. (The Energy Never Dies)" The Black Eyed Peas
Genre: Pop, Hip Hop
RIYL: Fergie, Pitbull, Kesha, Nelly Furtado
Blurb: Nothing is more iconic than starting an album with "Boom Boom Pow." I grew up listening to Fergie with my aunt, so rediscovering The Black Eyed Peas has been really fun. Their music has great beats and is really fun to dance to. If you need music for a mid-study session dance break, I would highly recommend this album. And if you need a surprisingly emotional song to come down off of a raucous night, I would listen to "Meet Me Halfway."

Concert Manager's Pick — Jose Morales '22
Track: "Zatoichi" ft. Slowthai — Denzel Curry
Genre: Hip-Hop, Rap, Electronic
RIYL: JPEGMAFIA, Vince Staples, Mura Masa
Blurb: Denzel has dropped some amazing back-to-back singles recently with "Walking" and now "Zatoichi." "Zatoichi" is a new style for Denzel Curry with a fast, rich and deep drum and bass production from Powers Pleasant, and Slowthai's distorted feature hits hard as the hook for the track. It's impressive how Denzel consistently explores new sounds with each project from his rough, aggressive debut rap album "Imperial" (2016), to a more spacey pop influenced sophomore album "Taboo," and a fun Florida-grounded party album in "Zuu." I love Denzel Curry and these recent singles have me excited for his next project.

Concert Manager's Pick — Luke Robins '23
Album: "Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You"— Big Thief
Genre: Alternative Rock, Folk
RIYL: Julia Jacklin, Lucy Dacus, Faye Webster
Blurb: With every project, Adrianne Lenker's songwriting peels back another layer, separating words from reality. Her voice grounds an album whose breadth of sounds and emotions capture the contradictory nature of living. The album embodies the final refrain "I want to live forever 'til I die," as each song goes through a journey of wanting to love in all forms and learning to love better. "Change," "Simulation Swarm" and "Promise is a Pendulum" are a few of my favorites.

PIA CONTRERAS

How Plato's Republic and bluegrass brought students, faculty and staff together

By JOSHUA GLUCKSMAN
Contributing Writer

While the "Feb identity" has rightly been deconstructed in recent years, there are still some Febs who wear the tropes well. Lee Summers '24.5 is one such quintessential Feb. He plays rugby and studies Ancient Greek at Middlebury. He resides in Houston (and will let you know it), and he picked up a quirky new hobby over his Febmester: bluegrass.

When Summers picked up bluegrass music as a pastime during his gap semester last fall, he came to campus prepared to answer the infamous "What'd you do during your febmester?" question with style. Despite looking through numerous online forums, he came up short of finding any active bluegrass communities in the Middlebury area.

Fast forward a few weeks, and Summers is writing a paper on Book III of Plato's Republic for Intro to Political Philosophy. Socrates explains what types of music the guardians of his just city should listen to. Summers tried to make a case that Socrates would have liked bluegrass music, breaking it down by modes and scales. Whether he demonstrated mastery over ancient Greek music theory is debatable, but what resulted from this paper was an offer from Postdoctoral Fellow Daniel Fram — who taught the class — to play bluegrass with him.

When Fram was in college, he participated in a faculty-led lunchtime jam session. "It was something that had been on my mind since I got here," Fram said. Summers and Fram started jamming outdoors in the spring. Assistant Professor of Economics Amanda Gregg was eager to join, and the group slowly started growing. "It felt like a little snowball we started," Fram said. Sam Chester '22, who had been looking for a bluegrass community all four years of college, saw the group jamming outside, and the snowball effect continued.

One of the unique aspects about bluegrass is the emphasis on listening to the other musicians playing, using their playing as inspiration for improvisation.

"You learn how to listen better and look for those little themes that might develop in the music, and how you can push them a bit with your own instrument," Vice President for Communications and Marketing David Gibson, another member of the group, said.

Summers describes this same phenomenon but extrapolates it to the group as a whole. Listening to the tension between instruments in order to create a unified sound in turn creates a more unified group. "The democratic idiom of bluegrass, in a way, forces you to relate to people that seem just really awe-inspiring or unapproachable in class as peers," Summers said.

The four members of the group who spoke to The Campus commented on the improvisation that distinctly categorizes bluegrass music. Students like Summers are able to learn a lot from more experienced faculty and staff. "There's all sorts of trade. I've stolen more licks [short musical phrases] from David, Dan and Amanda than I can count," Summers said.

On the flip side, this group provides an exciting opportunity for the adult members of the group to learn from the students as well. Fram describes the bluegrass jams as not unlike what he experiences in his seminars at the college. "We have some experts holding it down, but, as what often happens in the classroom, faculty and staff can learn from the students too," Fram said.

Daleelah Saleh/The Middlebury Campus

Middlebury Bluegrass Jam convenes in the Abernathy Room for an afternoon jam session.

It is rewarding for Gibson that these jam sessions draw such a diverse group of Middlebury College members.

"To be able to do that with people I either don't have much opportunity to interact with or connect with only through the job, makes it even more enjoyable," he said.

Not only is the ensemble music style itself "give and take" but so is the learning atmosphere in the group — which touts a wide range of experience. More than jazz, bluegrass is uniquely approachable, where the layered melodies range from simple to more complex, all the while flowing seamlessly. In other words, the range of skill and experience can be broad within one group of bluegrass musicians, but playing can still be enjoyable.

Gregg spoke to the joy in teaching and learning in a positive environment like this.

"I'm an economist, not a music professor, so helping new members learn the basics so they can get involved has required me to teach outside my comfort zone," Gregg said. "If you want to make everything else in your life seem a lot less scary, singing a song in front of other people usually does the trick."

The link between learning life lessons and playing music might not seem obvious at first glance, but it exists. Whether one realizes this academically, by reading Plato's Republic, or experientially, by jamming with Middlebury's bluegrass group, people constantly express attitudes towards life — attitudes about the fear of death, love, longing, and loss.

Fram took a philosophical approach to the influence of music more broadly.

"Music is indeed a profound way to express what life is all about," he said.

The Middlebury Bluegrass Jam convenes Fridays at 4:30pm. For more information, contact Lee at bluegrass@middlebury.edu

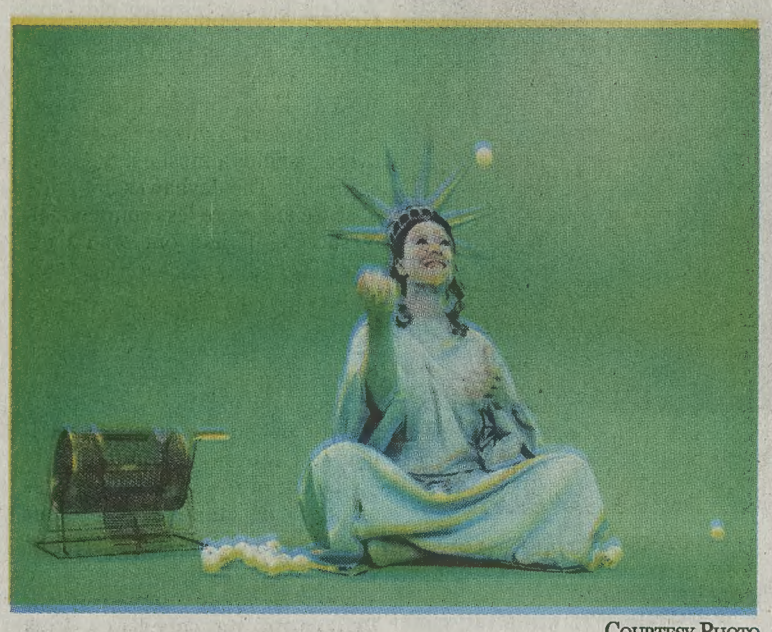
"Witness" at the Hirschfield Film Festival: The Jewish Immigrant Experience as Virtual Reality Theater

By MIRA WARD
Contributing Writer

"Witness" — the Feb. 25 installment of the Hirschfield International Film Series — presents an imaginative three-act theatrical interpretation of Jewish immigration throughout history. "Witness" is produced by the Arlekin theater company's new virtual theater program Zero Gravity (zero-G). Through the lab, "Witness" premiered on Zoom to a live audience that voted on their favorite musical numbers and performers throughout the performance. Interestingly, the cast, many of whom are Russian-Jewish immigrants themselves, performed the project in front of green screens. The film's implementation of modern technological elements gives the topics at hand a timeless aura and communicates a necessary awareness of the global marginalization of the Jewish community.

The unconventional project takes place aboard the S.S. St. Louis, a ship of 900 Jewish immigrants en route to Cuba shortly after Kristallnacht, or "Night of Broken Glass," when the Nazi Party vandalized hundreds of local Jewish businesses, schools and synagogues in Germany in early November of 1938. The night resulted in more than 90 deaths. The night is referred to as Kristallnacht, or "Night of Broken Glass," referencing the severe damage and tragic violence of the event, which resulted in over 91 deaths. In the film, the immigrants aboard the S.S. St. Louis are fleeing the violent environment of post-Kristallnacht Germany. However, upon the ship's arrival to the U.S., the immigrants are turned away despite possessing proper documentation to enter the country. When the ship is rerouted to Florida, the immigrants are once again denied entry. While not portrayed in the film, the real-life S.S. St. Louis returned to Europe because of immigraiton quotas. Tragically, 254 of these returning passengers died in the Holocaust.

"Witness" handles these heavy topics with nuance. The performance begins with a talent show titled "Jews on the Move" hosted by a nightclub emcee who serves as a narrator throughout the entire production. Each passenger draws a number to determine when they will perform in the line up — importantly, all of these numbers are above 27,000, which was the 1938 US immigration quota. From the outset, "Witness" draws upon witiness and subtle nods to historical policy to communicate the tragic fate of the passengers. After the talent show, the live Zoom audience could interactively vote on their favorite acts performed by various immigrant performers. This element of virtual reality provides the audience with a surreal and innovative mode of engagement, but risks deferring to a gimmicky attempt at cultural relevance. Take, for example, the case of one performance, which features a woman tasked with destroying books (a reference to 1930s Nazi book burnings). While creative and unconventional, the interactive "video game" element of voting upon these performances feels incompatible alongside the sensitivity of the topics in the film.



Courtesy Photo

"Witness" uses modern technology to create an immersive retelling of Jewish immigration.

The second act of the play has no visual elements; it is made up entirely of a seemingly 3D soundscape of recorded journal entries, immigrant interviews and sounds of conversation and crying infants aboard the ship. These sounds were derived from an extensive collection of records and archived materials. This section is both powerful and overwhelming, immersing the audience in the chaos and cultural diversity of the ship. During this act, the emcee also reveals that the audience is aboard the ship with Jews from multiple immigration waves, furthering the St. Louis as a symbol of a timeless experience of marginalization for Jewish immigrants.

The third and final act hones in on individuals aboard the ship. One conversation in particular is between three American Jews living in modern times, in which we hear them discussing contemporary American antisemitism and briefly touch on the Isreal- Palestine conflict. A valuable addition to the film (one that would further bridge the gap between the pre-Holocaust passengers and 2022 audience) would be to more fully fleshed out the sentiments of modern passengers aboard the St. Louis regarding their relationship to these current events.

Overall, the digital tapestry presented by the performancefilm is unfamiliar and borders on unsettling, creating a feeling of tension in the viewer, as well as an inability to conceptualize the multiple temporal settings presented. The interactive elements of the film were meant to create less distance between the audience and the historical realities explored by the film, but arguably had the opposite effect. The digital elements present seemed more of an artistic choice meant to impress the audience rather than communicate an important message of historical relevance and human connection. While the message conveyed is certainly that Jewish identity has historically and politically existed in a gray area, in its pursuit of modernism, it sacrifices necessary sensitivity in favor of artistic innovation.

Reel Critic: Uncharted

By JACK TORPEY
Staff Writer

After the string of videogame movie misfires that included "Assassin's Creed" (2016), "Tomb Raider" (2018) and "Mortal Kombat" (2021), fans of the popular PlayStation exclusive "Uncharted" had their doubts upon hearing that director Ruben Fleischer would be bringing the iconic series about an adventurous treasure hunter to the big screen. As one of those fans, I can now say that those doubts have been laid to rest. With quippy dialogue, physics-defying action and a sense of swashbuckling enthusiasm pervading its every moment, "Uncharted" succeeds as an exciting adventure film that perfectly captures the spirit of its gaming inspiration.

The "Uncharted" videogame series puts players in the role of Nathan Drake, a witty treasure hunter who fends off deadly adversaries while traversing the globe in search of history's lost fortunes. Fleischer's adaptation acts as a prequel to the narratives set forth in the four games by introducing audiences to a slightly younger Drake before he has taken up the mantle of famed explorer. The film follows Drake (Tom Holland) as he embarks on his first adventure with Victor Sullivan (Mark Wahlberg), a major character from the games and Drake's closest ally. Racing from New York to Barcelona to the Philippines, the new partners compete with a violent millionaire (Antonio Banderas) and his henchmen to recover Ferdinand Magellan's missing fortune of $5 billion in gold.

There is nothing about "Uncharted" from a narrative or technical standpoint that separates it from the plethora of CGI-heavy action movies circulating in the world today ("Fast and Furious," I'm looking at you). Still, the film is memorable. It achieves the level of light entertainment it seeks to provide, a result that can be credited to the obvious passion with which Fleischer and his team adapted the games. This starts with the writing. From the instant they meet, Drake and Sullivan engage in banter reminiscent of the playful competitiveness that exists between them in the games. Drake's tongue is often quicker than his gun, and Holland excels at embodying that verbal savvy on-screen.

It was not just buzzy writing that originally drew so many players to the "Uncharted" games, however. Described by PlayStation as providing a "cinematic action-adventure experience," the series was made famous by its Hollywood-style action sequences conducted on blockbuster set pieces. Fleischer knew that for his adaptation to succeed, the action would have to match the level of spectacle achieved in the games. He ultimately meets this demand through the extensive use of CGI, which — though stripping the action of any grounded sense of physicality — allows the director and his crew to recreate the outlandish stunts from the games to an uncannily accurate degree. When watching an unconscious Drake fall from a cargo plane only to wake and then leap from one plummeting crate to another, pummeling scores of freefalling enemies as he fights to reboard the aircraft, it is easy to dismiss the action in "Uncharted" as being unrealistic to the point of ridiculous. But this was exactly what now-devotees of the series felt when they played the games for the first time, controlling Drake as he scales a derailed train car dangling from a cliffside in the Himalayas or swings from the inner machinery of a bell tower in Madagascar. It's supposed to be ridiculous; Fleischer knows this, and fans of the games will appreciate his faithful execution of the film's improbable action sequences.

More than thrilling action and snappy dialogue, however, the joyful escapism is what makes the "Uncharted" games special for millions of players. Traveling to the world's most stunning locales, hunting for treasure, solving age-old mysteries — these are the childhood fantasies that the "Uncharted" games allow its players to actualize, even if only through their eyes and imaginations. Fleischer's film adaptation works as well as it does because it carries this spirit of childlike wonder and excitement throughout its entire runtime. The mood is jumpy, the pace quickening and the characters reveling in the exhilaration of their adventure. If videogames are played because they are fun, it follows that the measure of a videogame movie should be how fun it is for the audience to watch. "Uncharted," a movie with zero pretensions and an abundance of extravagant spectacle, more than measures up.

PFL Weekly Ep. 2:

Women's hockey onto NESCAC semis, new track and field school records, and women's squash's resilience at CSA Championship

By BLAISE SIEFER, ELI DIBARI, MARCO FENGLER, CAPTAIN RUDOLPH, CAROLINE HARDING

This week, PFL Weekly recaps women's hockey's NESCAC quarterfinal win, new track and field school records and women's squash's resilience at the CSA tournament. Marco puts $5 on his stat of the week—wait, what? The crew names their Panther All-Stars of the week and previews a big weekend ahead in Middlebury sports. And you won't want to miss Blaise's trivia question! (Shoutout to the Middlebury Athletics coaching staff!)

The second episode of PFL Weekly was released on Tuesday, March 1.

Rising star: Ali Paquette, Assistant Director of Athletic Communications, receives prestigious award

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANK POULIN

Ali Paquette captures a photo during a Middlebury field hockey game.

By CHARLES CROUNSE
Sports Editor

One might begin to describe Ali Paquette, the Assistant Director of Athletic Communications, as an "unsung hero."

Although Paquette's work is ubiquitous in the Middlebury Athletics world — she is a stat-keeper, photographer, and social media manager, among other titles — it isn't always recognized. But this past week, Paquette was rewarded for her behind-the-scenes contributions, winning the College Sports Information Directors of America's (CoSIDA) Rising Star award. This is given to the best athletic communications director with less than ten years of experience in the field.

"It was definitely weird to win [the Rising Star award] since I'm very much behind the scenes and used to publicizing everybody else, but it was nice to receive recognition," Paquette, who has worked for just three years at Middlebury, told The Campus. "There are definitely a number of people deserving of this award, so I was surprised when I won it, but it felt very good to be appreciated."

This award isn't Paquette's first. In 2020, she earned CoSIDA's D-III Recognition Award and won "Best in Nation" for an athlete infographic in 2021. In 2018, Paquette won CoSIDA's Fred Stabley Sr. Writing Award.

In her role, Paquette acts as a liaison between Middlebury's athletics teams and the media and public. She runs Middlebury Athletics' social media outlets, writes game recaps after varsity competitions, and records statistics throughout matches, among other tasks.

Paquette did not always intend to pursue a career in athletic communications. She graduated from Salve Regina University in 2013 with a degree in biology, landing her first job in a lab after graduation. But the former collegiate cross country runner missed sports and craved more out of her professional career. "I realized something was missing," she explained. At the time, Paquette's boyfriend (now husband), Ryan Paquette, was coaching athletics at Middlebury College. Entering the sports industry seemed like the right fit.

"I've always been into writing, photography, and other creative things, so I thought maybe I could focus on that within athletics," Paquette recalled. "This role is a hybrid of a lot of different things, so my day-to-day life is always different, which I love. I get to be around college athletes who are very energetic and passionate about what they do, and that makes my job fun."

Although Paquette's career at Middlebury began in 2016 as an intern, she has only been in her newfound role as Assistant Director of Athletic Communications for the past two years. Now fully embedded in a field completely separate from her college major, Paquette encourages others to pursue their passions as she did.

"I think everyone, when they're a senior in college, thinks they have to have everything together and immediately be in the career they want to be in forever," Paquette said. "As someone who switched professions, went back to school, and spent the bulk of my twenties figuring things out, I think it's important to remember to have fun in your twenties and know you don't have to be wherever it is you want to end up. And for anyone interested in sports, my door is always open if you want to reach out."

MIDDLEBURY VARSITY COACHES REFLECT ON PAST PROFESSIONAL PLAYING CAREERS

Continued from Page 1

track athlete at Rice University (Texas), specializing in long distance races. After graduating in 1993, Wilkerson trained at the professional level, qualifying for the 10k at the 1995 U.S. Track & Field National Qualifier. The following year, Wilkerson ran the 10k in the U.S. Olympic trials.

What Wilkerson had to say: "The biggest takeaway was that it actually got easier to just focus on being an athlete. Academics at Rice were hard and when I graduated and was just running and working part-time, I got so much more sleep, less stress, etc., that training and racing was just easier. Being a student athlete is hard and you don't realize how hard it is until you are no longer a student and are just an athlete. Some of the highlights for me were being invited to or qualifying for bigger meets and having it paid for, which is kind of silly but it wasn't a stage I was used to or expected to be at most of my time competing at Rice. And in my own running world, totally geeked out on getting to warm up in and around the same area as some really fast women was a super highlight."

Jack Ceglarski — Assistant Coach, Men's Hockey — Pro Hockey Player in ECHL, SPHL

After four successful seasons as a hockey player at SUNY Geneseo, Jack Ceglarski played two years of professional hockey in 2017 and 2018. The hockey forward played for the Reading Royals (ECHL), Indy Fuel (ECHL) and the Huntsville Havoc (SPHL).

What Ceglarski had to say: "Getting the opportunity to continue playing hockey after I graduated college was something I always wanted to try. Not many people get the opportunity to do that and I felt I had to give it a chance. I couldn't be happier that I chose to do that. I was able to meet a lot of good buddies that I remain in touch with. I was fortunate enough to be on an unbelievable team in Huntsville, Texas, that ended up winning the championship. When you win a championship, you always cherish those moments and the people you go to work/rink with every day. One of the biggest takeaways from playing professionally was that professional sports quickly becomes a business. That was a hard adjustment coming from college since players can be traded or released at any moment. Luckily, the teammates I had made that adjustment for me easier than what others must face."

Andrew Johnson — Head Coach, Men's & Women's Nordic Skiing — Two-Time Nordic Ski Olympian

A former student at Middlebury and Utah, Johnson is a three-time NCAA All-American, two-time U.S. Olympian (2002 and 2006), and nine-year member of the U.S. Ski Team (1999–2007). In 2005 and 2006, Johnson was the U.S. National Champion in nordic skiing.

COURTESY PHOTO

Greg Conrad '17 fights for position with an opponent while playing professional soccer.

What Johnson had to say: "I feel very fortunate to have been able to pursue my childhood dream with such singular focus for so long, and even more fortunate for the experiences, connections and opportunities that I was able to take forward beyond my racing career. There were also a ton of disappointments and tough times along the way, and in retrospect it's pretty clear that I didn't always have the right tools to process those productively. Going through periods of poor racing results while spending 7+ months of the year on the road could be very challenging, lonesome and dispiriting. However, those experiences have been much more formative to my coaching career than any race I won or accolade I received and although miserable in the moment, very valuable in the bigger picture."

Adam Luban — Assistant Coach, Men's & Women's Nordic Skiing — Member, Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation Gold

After Adam Luban '18 concluded his four-year career on the Middlebury men's nordic team, he joined the Sun Valley Ski Education and Foundation Gold Team in Idaho where he competed in domestic and international ski races. Luban's goal was to qualify for the Olympics, but in 2019, he returned to Middlebury to coach.

What Luban had to say: "My favorite aspect of skiing professionally was being able to fully dedicate myself to training and challenging myself to improve as a skier. I enjoyed traveling to a variety of venues across the U.S. and Canada to train and race and appreciated the greater opportunities and financial rewards professional racing offered. However, I missed the shared experience of striving for and reaching collective goals that made my time as an athlete on the Middlebury ski team so special."

Greg Conrad — Assistant Coach, Men's Soccer — Pro Soccer Player in Iceland and Germany

Greg Conrad '17 was a two-sport varsity athlete while a student at Middlebury, playing soccer and hockey. That's not a typical combination, but to be fair, Conrad was anything but typical as an athlete. Boasting impressive size and strength, the soccer forward bullied opponents in the NESCAC as a player. After graduating in 2017, Conrad trialed with Vikingur Reykjavik, a top-league soccer team in Iceland. From there, Conrad played with UMF Afturelding and UMF Tindastoll in Icelandic Deild 2 and DJK Tus Hordel of Westfalenliga in Germany.

What Conrad had to say: "My biggest takeaway from my time overseas was learning the importance of staying grounded in constantly changing environments. Whether it was ups and downs in my on-field performance, team/staff changes or upcoming transfer windows, I could only control what was directly in front of me in the present moment. As far as challenges, learning to play the game in new languages (Icelandic and German) was much more difficult than anticipated."

Mark Lewis — Head Coach, Men's & Women's Squash — U.S. Olympic Committee Athlete of the Year (Squash)

Mark Lewis had a long, successful career as a pro squash player. Between 1995 and 2002, he was on the Pro Squash Association World Tour, once ranking in the top five in the United States. Lewis represented Team USA at the Pan American Federation Championships in Colombia and Mexico and was once named U.S. Olympic Committee Athlete of the Year.

What Lewis had to say: "I will start with my love of competition and that I was very fortunate to have competed against and with some great players. The takeaways were: the relationships built over time with my fellow competitors (many of whom are now coaches) and traveling to different countries especially Mexico and Colombia to represent the U.S. Perhaps my biggest struggle was that when I started my career playing professionally I was relatively old. I took my first steps at learning the game from English master coach David Pearson in Harrogate, England, at 25 years old. The challenge of starting late was not having developed much skill in my early days. I compensated for my lack of skill by working hard at my fitness and my mental game. This work culminated in being the runner up in the Men's Senior National Championships in 1998. As a former junior national coach again the travel was incredibly fun and enlightening. Coaching the U.S. Men's junior national team at the Men's Junior World Championships was memorable for the squash that was played and experience of working with the best juniors in the U.S., one of whom went on to win nine Men's senior national championships. In all, my path to Middlebury has taken me to some special places where I have met and created many life-long relationships that influence me to this day."

David Cromwell — Assistant Coach, Men's & Women's Squash — Member, Pro Squash Association

After a successful squash career at Middlebury, David Cromwell '16 joined the Pro Squash Association where he earned a world ranking of No. 161. His time as a professional took him across the world, with the now-assistant coach playing and living in England at one point.

What Cromwell had to say: "Playing professionally was a challenging and amazing experience I wouldn't trade. I enjoyed getting to know and learn from a variety of knowledgeable and experienced coaches. The learning and the problem solving aspect involved in bringing out your best as an athlete and performer is probably my favorite part. It's often about finding the thing that unlocks the other things, and that process can be very nonlinear. One of the most challenging parts of the experience was living a lifestyle that was so different from many of my peers. Also, not being a part of a team like at Midd was a tough adjustment. You have to kind of craft your own team and really know what you're going for and why. I struggled with that for sure. I have a lot of takeaways. I'd say controlling the controllables is talked about a lot but uncontrolling the uncontrollables is just as important."

Bob Hansen — Associate Head Coach, Men's Tennis — Northern California's Open Player of the Year

Bob Hansen was consistently a top-ranked tennis player in the 1970s, once named Northern California's Open Player of the Year. Hansen used to play in the international circuit, earning wins against renowned professionals such as Brad Gilbert and Paul McNamee. The associate head coach at Middlebury also won the USTA 40 National Grass Court Championships in Santa Barbara, California.

Mark Sienko — Assistant Coach, Women's Soccer — Former Pro Soccer Player in Poland

After graduating from high school in Vermont, Mark Sienko trained with Coleraine FC, a semi-pro club in Northern Ireland. After a successful stint there, Sienko played professionally in Poland for Stal Rzeszow. After his time abroad, Sienko enrolled as a student at the University of Vermont and played club soccer.

Jorge Rojas — Assistant Coach, Women's Soccer — Former Pro Soccer Player in Chile and United States

Jorge Rojas, assistant coach of women's soccer, played professional soccer in several countries. Both an indoor and outdoor soccer player, Rojas played on teams such as Everton (Chile) and The Amarillo Challengers (Texas).

COURTESY PHOTO

Andrew Johnson (center) races in the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake. The Middlebury coach would go on to finish 22nd overall in the race.

SPRING SPORTS: SEASON PREVIEWS

By BLAISE SIEFER, ISABELLA MARCUS, CHARLES CROUNSE & EMILY JONES | *Sports Editors*

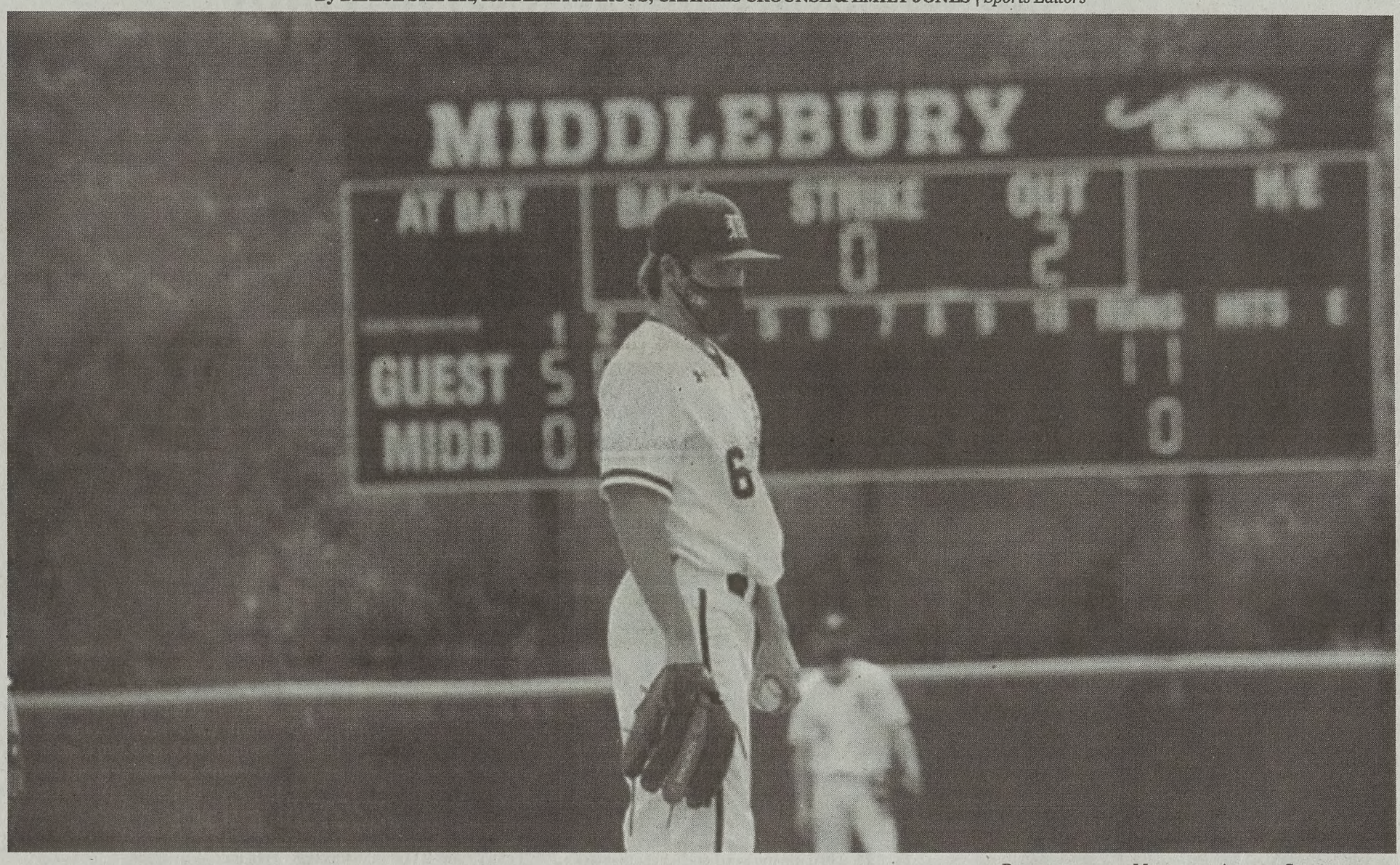


Photo courtesy of Middlebury Athletic Communications

Gavin Gattuso '24 is an athlete to watch for men's baseball this season.

Men's baseball

Head coach: Mike Leonard (5th year at Middlebury)

Captains: Andrew Gough '23, Alec Ritch '23, Alex Price '23

Athletes to watch for: Freddy Mosier '22.5, Andrew Ashley '24, Sammy Smith '24

Background: For the first time since 2019, men's baseball will take to Forbes Field for a full season of NESCAC competition. Last year, the team competed with a 15-man roster and a limited NESCAC West-only schedule. Playing just eight games, Middlebury went 2–6, but boasted two All-NESCAC honorees: Andrew Ashley '24 and Sammy Smith '24. The three 2022 captains — Gough, Ritch and Price — took the 2020–2021 year off to be eligible for two final seasons. Back to an almost 40-man squad, the team looks to claim its second overall NESCAC Championship title. First pitch of the season is scheduled for March 5 in Troy, New York, versus Bates College.

Key competitions: Johns Hopkins (Away, March 20); Williams (Home, April 15–16); Amherst (Home, April 22–23)

Men's golf

Head coach: Bill Beaney (34th year)

Captains: Chris Thompson '22, KJ Dieker '22

Athletes to watch for: Hogan Beazley '23, Sean McGarrity '23, Colin McCaigue '24

Background: The Panthers enter the spring as reigning NESCAC Champions, taking home the title last May in South Hadley, Massachusetts. A key factor in the Panthers' success last year was Jordan Bessalel '21, the 2020-21 NESCAC Player of the Year––needless to say, men's golf has some big shoes to fill. But it's not an impossible challenge. Hogan Beazley '23 has been a star performer for Middlebury in recent years, and Sean McGarrity '23 and Colin McCaigue '24 are also players to watch. The NESCAC is always a competitive league — teams like Trinity College will certainly offer stiff competition — but don't count out the Panthers this season.

Key competitions: Tim Brown Invitational (Away, April 9–10); Williams Spring Invitational (Away, April 16–17); NESCAC Championships (Away, April 30–May 1).

Women's golf

Head coach: Bill Mandigo (33rd year)

Captains: Maddy Cordeiro '23, Katie Murphy '23

Athletes to watch for: Sophia Hwang '24, Jacqueline Slinkard '24, Audrey Tir '25

Background: Women's golf finished second in the NESCAC Fall Qualifier in October, at only 15 combined strokes behind first-place Amherst. The Mammoths enter the spring as the team to beat, but the Panthers shuffle in shortly behind them. Many young players emerged for Middlebury in the fall — take Audrey Tir '25, for example, who led the Panthers in last fall's Qualifier — and only time will tell how high they can soar. The Panthers are in line for a solid spring season.

Key competitions: Vassar College Invitational (Away, April 16–17); Jack Leaman Invitational (Away, April 23–24); NESCAC Championships (Away, April 30–May 1)

Men's lacrosse

Head coach: Dave Campbell '00 (15th year)

Captains: Andrew Ng '22, Kyle McFetridge '22, Jack Sheehan '22.5, Luke Simpson '23

Athletes to watch for: Tyler Forbes '23, Will Ryan '23, Will Zink '23

Background: It's hard to predict how men's lacrosse will perform this spring. Last year, the Panthers were unable to field a team, with the majority of players taking semesters off. It's now been about two years since men's lacrosse last took the field, leaving fans with more questions than answers. There are whispers that this year's team is looking strong — the Panthers' attack, for one, should be lights out. Expect Tyler Forbes '23 and Will Ryan '23 to run the show offensively, and don't forget do-it-all playmaker Will Zink '23. With the defensive end chock-full of leadership, the rumors might be true — this year's team could be fun to watch.

Key competitions: Bowdoin (Away, March 5); Tufts (Home, April 2); Amherst (Home, April 23)

Women's lacrosse

Head coach: Kate Livesay '03 (7th year)

Captains: Emma White '22, Erin Nicholas '22, Grace Getman '22

Athletes to watch for: Lily Riseberg '22, Madeline Riordan '22, Jane Earley '23

Background: The last time Middlebury women's lacrosse took to the field for a full season in 2019, the team walked away with a National Championship and near perfect 22–1 record. In a shortened 2020 season, the squad went 3–0, outscoring opponents by up to 19 points. Despite graduating half of its starters, Middlebury looks to regroup with two new classes of players and three USA Lacrosse Magazine Preseason All-Americans (Jane Earley '23, 1st team; Erin Nicholas '22, 1st team; Emma White '22, 2nd team). Led by a group of veteran captains, the team has hopes for an 11th NESCAC Championship and eighth NCAA title. In the IWLCA preseason poll, Middlebury ranks No. 11, the highest ranking among teams who did not compete in the 2021 season.

Key competitions: York (Away, March 22); Tufts (Away, April 2); Colby (Home, April 16)

Women's track & field

Head coach: Martin Beatty '84 (34th year)

Captains: Julia Munz '22, Jackie Topping '22, Cassie Kearney '22, Cady Barns '22.5

Athletes to watch for: Katelyn Pease '22, Mary Scott Robinson '24, Zoe Wang '25

Background: Women's track and field enters the spring after placing sixth at D-III New England Championships. There is talent all over this year's roster, from first-year Zoe Wang '25 to senior Cassie Kearney '22. Just like the men's side, the women's team is strong in both distance and field events, which is generating a lot of optimism headed into the spring. Expect big things from the women's track and field team this season!

Key competitions: Amherst Spring Fling (Away, April 9); NESCAC Championships (Away, April 30); D-III New England Championships (Away, May 6–7)

Men's tennis

Head coach: Andrew Thomson '10 (5th year)

Captains: Zach Hilty '22, Stan Morris '22, David Vilys '22

Athletes to watch for: Aidan Harris '23, Robby Ward '23, Noah Laber '24

Background: Fans can expect big things from this year's men's tennis team as the Panthers return to defend their NESCAC title from the 2018-19 season, when the competition was last held. The Panthers enjoyed a strong first half of the season in tournament action, with men's duo Noah Laber '24 and Aidan Harris '23 claiming the doubles' victory at the ITA Regional Championships before Stan Morris '22 took home the individual title at the ITA Cup. The team is a juggernaut within the NESCAC division; they have made the division final every year since the 2012–13 season and have recorded nine titles. The squad will also hope to make a run in the NCAA tournament and improve upon their semifinal finish from 2019.

Key competitions: Tufts (Home, March 12); Williams (Home, April 16); Bowdoin (Home, May 1)

Women's tennis

Head coach: Rob Barr (5th year)

Captain: Nora Lima Dahl '22

Athletes to watch for: Gena Huang '24, Sahana Raman '25, Claudia Miller '25

Background: The women's tennis team is on a mission this season. With four consecutive defeats in the NESCAC finals, the Panthers are looking to finally claim a league title, and this year could be shaping up to be the year they end their finals misfortunes. The team is packed with talent and their first-year class was particularly eye-catching in the fall season. Sahana Raman '25 claimed the ITA Championship singles title before finishing runner-up in the ITA Cup, and the tandem of Raman and Claudia Miller '25 advanced to the semifinals of the ITA Championship. With a slew of talented underclassmen eager to prove themselves for their first time in NESCAC competition and a capable leader in Nora Lima Dahl '22, the Panthers could be eyeing the NESCAC title as well as a deep run in the national tournament.

Key competitions: Tufts (Home, March 12); Colby (Home, April 30); Bowdoin (Home, May 1)

Men's track & field

Head coach: Martin Beatty '84 (34th year)

Captains: Max Memeger '22, Dan Brey '22, Noah Whiting '22, Will Behm '22, Zander Kessler '22.5

Athletes to watch for: Max Cluss '23, Colin Breen '24, Santi Canella '25

Background: Although it's been two years since the NESCAC Championship was held, let's not forget that Middlebury won back-to-back titles in 2018 and 2019. Martin Beatty '84 has constructed a dominant program in Addison County and the Panthers show no signs of slowing down this spring. Expect big contributions from members of the first-year class, like Santi Canella '25, who tied the school record in the triple jump in January; and Caleb Fineske, a first-year jumper who showed significant improvement in the winter season. The distance team should also be strong, with runners like Drew Donahue '25, Max Cluss '23, and Zander Kessler '22.5 coming off strong indoor seasons.

Key competitions: Amherst Spring Fling (Away, April 9); NESCAC Championships (Away, April 30); D-III New England Championships (Away, May 6–7)

Women's softball

Head coach: Kelly Bevere '99 (18th year)

Captains: Sophia Marlino '22, Noelle Ruschil '22, Jen McGann '22, Sophie Bolinger '22

Athletes to watch for: Jewel Ashbrook '23, Abby Santis '23, Megan Fox '24

Background: After back-to-back losing seasons, women's softball will look to make a comeback this spring. The team is led by a strong core of senior players, with Noelle Ruschil '22 and Sophia Marlino '22 standing as two of the Panthers' most important players. Defeating conference rivals like Tufts and Williams will be no easy feat — in the past nine seasons, one of those two programs has won the league title — but the Panthers should bring great energy and fight this season.

Key competitions: Amherst (Away, April 2); Williams (Home, April 9); Hamilton (Away, April 16)

MIDDLEBURY'S 99TH ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL: THE MIDDLEBURY SKI RACES RETURN

By EMILY HOGAN
Layout Editor

After a year of hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, ski racers, students and spectators once again took to the slopes at the Middlebury Carnival. The ski races were just one event in the larger 99th Annual Winter Carnival, which consisted of on-campus events such as a bonfire, fireworks, trivia in addition to several activities, such as mini golf and laser tag.

The Students

While many traditions have come and gone throughout the 99 years of the Winter Carnival, several have become integral parts of the experience. The Winter Ball traditionally takes place in the Athletic Center. Another student, Anne Lofgren '23, recalls her experience with a pre-pandemic Winter Carnival.

"[We] went to the Winter Formal, which was fun, and it was also really cold because we were all in our fancy dresses and they would bus us to the field house," she said.

Events such as these have remained a trademark of Middlebury's Winter Carnival for years, even though the Winter Ball was suspended this year due to concerns about the spread of Covid-19.

Past traditions also include a dance, called the "Klondike Rush", as well as snow sculpting, an ice skating show and a play.

Some traditions, like the Nordic and Alpine ski races, have stood the test of time since the very first years of the Carnival.

"I feel like a lot of it is just centered around the party-drinking scene and the ski races and then that winter formal with DJ Earworm," Lofgren said, referring to the guest artist present at the Winter Ball in 2020.

Lofgren noted that she did not have high expectations for the Winter Carnival this year. However, she happily recalled the tradition of colorful and flashy outfits on the slopes.

"Everyone wears their bright col-

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A Middlebury Ski Patrol member patrolling at Rikert on Saturday morning.

ors and climbs up to watch and then attempts to climb down and ends up sliding down," Lofgren laughs. This year was no different, with students wearing neon leggings, 80's ski suits and reflective jackets, although climbing of the mountain was banned due to dramatic weather changes that created dangerous sheets of ice.

Olivia Dixon '24, looks back on her Winter Carnival weekend fondly.

"It was really fun so I feel like now I'm looking forward to doing it again ... It was lowkey and fun and very memorable." she said. While Dixon did not attend the ski races, she notes how she heard fantastic reviews of the experience. "Just one big party and wearing fun bright clothes," she said.

The Patrols

While the ski races have long been popular events that draw many Middlebury students, it seems the absence of the Winter Formal made the event even more popular. Toby Weed '22, co-president of the Middlebury Ski Patrol, said that this year's ski races felt better-attended than usual.

"I don't know if that's the function of [spectators] being at the base area rather than up there," he said.

With the trails adjacent to the racecourse closed due to icy conditions, students and spectators watched from the base of the mountain and gathered on the balcony of the lodge.

The Middlebury Ski Patrol, made up entirely of Middlebury students, took to the slopes at the Bowl and Rikert from Friday to Sunday. Their job consisted of looking out for injuries among the racers and skiers on the rest of the terrain while also operating as crowd control for the viewers.

Chelsea Smith '23.5, Patrol rookie class of 2021, patrolled her first Middlebury Carnival this year, and she noted how the energy among the patrollers was high as the Carnival approached.

"There's a lot of us, and we are all excited and ready to be there," she said.

The patrollers were able to watch the races as they looked for injuries. While every patroller works every weekend, the weekend of Winter Carnival is particularly exciting as they are joined by so many more of their peers.

The Carnival seemed to bring back an energy that the student population had been missing for over a year. Smith recalls her first Winter Carnival, when she hadn't yet joined ski patrol.

"There was probably at least a third of the school on the sides of the trail, if not more, at any given moment," she said.

While students enjoyed the lively atmosphere at the base of the mountain, Weed notes that the event may have gotten out of hand at some points.

"The impression among the staff has been that it's been getting more debaucherous ... so I don't think everyone was stoked on that," Weed said. He did note that the weekend went smoothly apart from a few crowd incidents, and that the Carnival's atmosphere was largely enjoyable for him as well as many other members of Ski Patrol.

The Athletes

Members of the ski team commented on the excitement that precedes the Middlebury Carnival.

"It's so special, you have all your friends up there cheering so loud, and as you go by the Roost, you can just hear them yelling, and it's one of the best feelings," Sophia Yubero '23, a member of Middlebury's alpine ski team, said.

The Alpine team came into the weekend with momentum from their previous carnivals. The team won the Giant Slalom (GS) at Colby Carnival, held at Sugarloaf in Maine, with Yubero placing seventh in the race. They then won the GS again the following weekend, and the women's team placed second in the slalom. The ski team's main competitors are the Uni-

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versity of Vermont and Dartmouth, and the winners of any given Carnival are a consistent toss up of the three.

"When everything comes together, it works really well, but it's hard for every single piece to be firing on any given day", Yubero said. The entire team, Nordic and Alpine, ended up placing second overall to UVM at the Middlebury Carnival, with Dartmouth in third. Yubero's season momentum served her well, as she placed sixth with her teammate, Lucia Bailey '22, in fifth.

Anja Jenson '24, a member of the Nordic team, reflected on her weekend at the races.

"Personally, I had some of my best results of the year this weekend, which was super nice," Jenson said.

The team raced a 5k and 10k classic interval start on Friday, and a 10k and 20k skate mass start on Saturday.

When the Nordic team finished racing, they headed to the Snow Bowl to cheer on their teammates on the Alpine team.

"Normally, we're not able to watch them race because the different venues are far enough apart that we can't make it. So that was really fun to go

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Snowbowl employees chat as one of the numerous extra buses arrives to take students back to campus after a day watching the races.

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up there and see what they were doing," Jenson said.

The two teams competed in one last carnival this past weekend, and qualifiers are headed to NCAA Ski Championships in Park City, Utah during the weekend of March 9.

Many students, Middlebury faculty and families showed up at Rikert on Friday and Saturday to cheer on the racers as they passed by, and some even took advantage of the terrain to get their own Nordic skiing in.

This year's Winter Carnival allowed Middlebury students to experience an atmosphere that most may not have encountered before and some may have forgotten for a while. While traditional large gatherings like the Winter Carnival Ball were still absent from this year's program, the Middlebury Carnival ski races allowed students to come together in an embrace of school spirit, community and excitement. The Middlebury community seems to share a hopeful attitude in looking towards the future, a necessary frame of mind for the present.

"I feel like I'll feel more inclined to actually go to the Snowbowl and the ski races and stuff because it'll be my senior year ... I'm looking forward to [having Winter Carnival] again," Dixon said about next year's Carnival.